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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Pentagon seeks \$705B for its 2021 budget

Proposal focuses on next-generation weapons needed for Russia, China fight

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Monday requested its largest-ever investment in innovation and next-generation weapons as part of a \$705.4 billion budget proposal for fiscal year 2021 as the U.S. eyes increased military capabilities by its great-power competitors, China and Russia.

The Defense Department unveiled its 2021 budget request as part of the White House's \$4.8 trillion federal spending proposal for next year that would cut social programs while investing heavily in national defense. The proposal would provide a total of \$740.5 billion for defense spending, which includes the Pentagon's budget as well as nuclear programs within the Department of Energy.

The request includes funds to build up the military's newest service — the U.S. Space Force, to buy dozens of aircraft, ships and land vehicles, and a proposed 3% boost in troops' pay. It would represent a slight increase to the \$704.6 billion that Congress provided the Pentagon for fiscal year 2020. Lawmakers also provided the Pentagon an extra \$8 billion of emergency funding this year to rebuild installations

hit by natural disasters in recent years, including hurricanes and major floods.

While the proposed budget largely looks to the future, it also provides funds for ongoing combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria and training missions in Europe — all at lower levels than in fiscal year 2020. The budget predicts smaller troop presences worldwide, presuming a reduction

SEE BUDGET ON PAGE 4

Winter storms pummel northern Europe

Hurricane-force winds, heavy rain sweep across wide area; damage being evaluated near US bases in Germany

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DANIEL BOCKWOLDT, DPA/AP

A tree lies on a car in Hamburg, Germany, as workers clear debris Monday after a storm battered the U.K. and northern Europe on Sunday.

South Koreans facing furloughs fear for future

BY KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

CAMP CASEY, South Korea — Yi Myong Hwa, who has worked for the U.S. military for nearly half his life, has been getting headaches and wakes up these days to a feeling of dread.

Yi is one of some 9,000 South Korean employees who received notice late last month that they might be forced to take unpaid leave beginning April 1 if the U.S. and South Korea fail to agree on a new defense cost-sharing agreement.

"The furlough notice hit us like a bolt of lightning," the 46-year-old fire department dispatcher told Stars and Stripes in a recent interview at her office at Camp Casey, the closest U.S. base to the border with North Korea.

"Korean employees have been working for U.S. troops and the security of the United States and South Korea," she said. "It's outrageous that we're being used as a bargaining chip."

U.S. Forces Korea said the 60-day notice was required by law because the previous Special Measures Agreement, as the pact is known, expired at the end of last year and residual funds will run out by the end of March.

SEE FURLoughs ON PAGE 3

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Jet stream helps NY to London flight beat record

The Washington Post

Four hours and 56 minutes. That's all the time it took for British Airways Flight 112 to fly from New York's JFK International Airport to London Heathrow early Sunday. According to the flight tracking service Flight-radar24, the flight broke the previous transatlantic record of 5 hours and 13 minutes between New York and London.

A jet stream at more than 260 mph turbo-charged the trans-Atlantic British Airways flight,

which departed New York at 6:20 p.m. and landed in London at 4:43 a.m. Sunday, nearly two hours ahead of schedule.

The jet stream is the zone of strong winds around 30,000 feet high in the atmosphere, along which storms track. Many commercial aircraft hitch a ride along the jet stream to give themselves a speed boost. During the winter, the North Atlantic jet stream is at its most powerful, slingshotting flights eastward across the Atlantic and slowing aircraft moving to

the west, often adding more than an hour of flying time to the return trip, and occasionally even a refueling stop.

As it shot across the Atlantic, the Boeing 747-400 jet reached a top ground speed of 825 mph. However, the jet did not actually break the sound barrier, since that is measured by its airspeed. On the flight deck Saturday night, the pilots likely saw its airspeed hover close to its typical maximum cruising speed of Mach 0.855, or about 655 mph.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 11)	\$1.1227	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
Dollar buys (Feb. 11)	60.8907	British pound	\$1.2940
British pound (Feb. 11)	\$1.33	Canada (Dollar)	1.3317
Japanese yen (Feb. 11)	107.00	China (Yuan)	6.9848
South Korean won (Feb. 11)	1,158.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.8381
		Egypt (Pound)	15.1295
		Euro	\$1.0928/0.9150
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7661
		Hungary (Forint)	309.07
		Israel (Shekel)	3.4252
		Japan (Yen)	109.76
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3045
		Norway (Krone)	9.2616
		Philippines (Peso)	50.82
		Poland (Zloty)	3.90
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7508
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3887
		South Korea (Won)	1,189.07
		Switzerland (Franc)	0.9771
		Thailand (Baht)	31.29
		Turkey (Lira)	6.0199

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.59
3-month bill	1.53
30-year bond	2.04

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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PACIFIC

Furloughs: Pact between US, S. Korea ends leaving workers waiting for verdict

FROM FRONT PAGE

South Koreans who are placed on furlough will keep their jobs and base access but won't receive back pay, U.S. officials said.

It was the first time individual employees have received such a warning due to a lapsed agreement officials said, although the military sent a six-month notice to the USFK Korean Employees Union in October as it has done in the past.

'Big gap'

South Korea has helped offset the cost of stationing some 28,500 U.S. troops on the divided peninsula under the agreement since 1991. The funds are used for administrative and logistical support as well as construction projects and the bulk of salaries for Korean nationals, as the employees are known.

Negotiations over the amount, previously held every five years, have always been contentious.

But President Donald Trump's administration raised the stakes by demanding that the South pay nearly \$5 billion per year, a fivefold increase from the amount paid last year.

The allies also missed the deadline in 2018 but agreed a few weeks later to a stopgap measure increasing South Korea's contribution by 8.2% but only lasting a year.

The two sides still face "a big gap" after six rounds of negotiations, although they continue to communicate "via email or phone," Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said Thursday.

The U.S. softened its initial demand but reportedly still seeks a sharp hike in funding and a broadening of the agreement to cover more costs including rotational troops.

Negotiators said they narrowed their differences during a meeting in January in Washington,

D.C., but no date has been announced for the next session.

The two sides "should act reasonably and fairly within the framework of the existing SMA," Kang told reporters in Seoul.

She acknowledged the need to reach a swift conclusion as the furlough looms. South Korea also will hold parliamentary elections in April, which may delay the issue further since the National Assembly needs to ratify the deal.

Bracing for impact

The furlough wouldn't affect nonappropriated fund organizations such as on-base restaurants, exchange stores, bowling alleys and other community activities that receive money from other sources.

But it would hit bus drivers, staff at the military hospital, post offices, fire departments, maintenance crews and administrative offices, among others.

Tech. Sgt. David Rodgers, a heavy equipment scheduler assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base, said his unit relies on South Korean workers to help clear snow and maintain the airfield.

"Korean Nationals provide us about a third of our workforce," he said. "It's important that the furlough gets resolved with our [South Korea]-U.S. alliance so that we can get our Korean Nationals back in the fight and helping us accomplish the mission."

Camp Humphreys, home to USFK headquarters and with a population of nearly 40,000 the largest overseas U.S. base, is bracing for the potential impact.

"We're still working through that, very closely identifying all the positions that would be affected by the lack of a Special Measures Agreement," garrison commander Col. Michael Tremblay said last week in an



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

A South Korean man working for U.S. Forces Korea assists a service member Thursday at the post office on Osan Air Base, South Korea.



Kim Kyong Kon, a South Korean who works for the housing office at Camp Casey, South Korea, speaks about the possibility of a furlough.

interview.

"Of course, there will be impacts to the families of the Korean nationals that are employed, and I would assume but don't know yet that there would be some impacts to garrison operations," he said.

Camp Humphreys already has reduced late-night hours for bus routes and warned the community of likely delays in services after implementing "austerity measures," including a ban on overtime and a local hiring freeze.

Workers at Camp Casey also have felt the effects of the overtime freeze. Yi said the fire department has reduced the number of people responding to late-night calls for help, often involving severely intoxicated soldiers.

Kim Hyong Kon, who works at the housing office, said the staff is struggling to accommodate late-night troop arrivals at a busy time as the new rotational brigade is preparing to arrive.

"They're on a 24-hour schedule so we're often on standby," he said. "That's been a big problem. We request overtime, but they reject everything."

Job insecurity

Kim, who at 60 is his family's sole breadwinner, said the furlough notices shocked those who received them.

"The two countries had problems with the SMA negotiations last year too, but this is the first time we got furlough notices. This is serious," he said.

The issue has gained widespread attention in South Korea, prompting anti-American rallies, although they have been relatively

small and recent polls show that overall support for the decades-old alliance remains strong.

The USFK Korean Employees Union has threatened to stage protests, calling on the U.S. government to drop its "unreasonable demands that are destroying the [South Korea]-U.S. alliance" and "withdraw the furlough threat immediately."

The furlough threat was just the latest blow to the job security of South Korean employees, said union Vice Chairman Yang Yu Min. Many have been laid off in recent years as USFK consolidated most operations south of Seoul.

Yang said the union expects USFK to issue its final decision on the furloughs at the end of this month.

"Korean National employees are suffering from severe emotional distress because they have lots of family members depending on them," he said last week during an interview.

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Hawaii says to US Army: You can have your airfield back

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFER, Hawaii — The state of Hawaii is terminating its longtime lease of Dillingham Airfield on Oahu's Northern Shore and transferring it back to the U.S. Army, the state's transportation department announced Thursday.

The lease is being terminated as of June 30 because continued operation of the airfield "is not in the best interest" of the state, the Hawaii Department of Transportation Airports Division said in a statement.

The decision was based on several factors, including water system issues and lack of authority over the facility, Jade Butay, director of the Hawaii Department of Transportation, said in the statement.

Dillingham is Hawaii's only airport under transportation department jurisdiction



TYVEL CLEMEN/U.S. Army

Soldiers from Hawaii's 25th Infantry Division train at Dillingham Airfield. Hawaii is returning the airfield to the Army.

tion that is not owned by the state, which shells out \$1 million annually for operating and maintaining the airfield, Butay said.

The state and Army entered a five-year lease extension last year to give both parties

room to negotiate a longer-term lease, the Army said in a statement Friday. The state had leased the airfield since 1972.

"The U.S. Army is now analyzing the possible impacts resulting from the State's early termination notice to determine the way forward," the Army said.

The Army operates Wheeler Airfield only 14 miles from Dillingham on land directly adjacent to Schofield Barracks.

Soldiers and Marines routinely use the Dillingham property for training.

Dillingham is home to a handful of companies operating small planes used for parachuting and sightseeing.

In June, a twin-engine plane operated by Oahu Parachute Center crashed shortly after takeoff, killing all 11 people aboard, among them Navy Lt. Joshua Drablos, who was assigned to U.S. Fleet Cyber Command at nearby Kunaia.

Among the reasons for the state's decision to terminate the lease was its inability "to fully exercise its rights and powers," the transportation department's statement said.

"Under the Lease, all military flight operations and ground maneuvers will take precedence over civilian aircraft operations," the statement said. The lease also requires all improvements, subleases and permits be submitted to the Army for review and approval.

The state also must maintain a utility system of wells and pumps on the property that provides the sole water supply to the airfield, a dozen nearby residents, a county park, an Army beach parcel, a U.S. Air Force radar installation and a YMCA camp.

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2021 BUDGET

Trump's budget proposal revisits rejected cuts

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is offering a \$4.8 trillion election year budget plan that recycles previously rejected cuts to domestic programs such as food stamps and Medicaid to promise a balanced budget in 15 years — all while leaving Social Security and Medicare benefits untouched.

Trump's fiscal 2021 plan, released Monday, promises the government's deficit will crest above \$1 trillion only for the current budget year before steadily decreasing to more manageable levels, relying on optimistic economic projections, lower interest costs, scaled-back overseas military operations and proposed cuts to agency budgets that run counter to two separate budget deals signed by Trump.

The budget "sets the course for a future of continued American dominance and prosperity," Trump said in a message accom-

panying the document.

The plan had no chance even before Trump's impeachment scorched Washington. Its cuts to food stamps, farm subsidies, Medicaid and student loans couldn't pass when Republicans controlled Congress, much less now with liberal House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., setting the agenda.

Trump's budget follows a familiar formula that exempts seniors from cuts to Medicare and Social Security while targeting benefit safety net programs for the poor, domestic programs like clean energy and student loan subsidies. It again proposes to dramatically slash funding for overseas military operations to save \$567 billion over 10 years but adds \$11 trillion over the same time frame to make his 2017 tax cuts permanent law.

The Trump budget relies on rosy economic projections of 2.8% economic growth this year and 3% over the long term — in addition to fanciful claims of future cuts to domestic programs — to show that

it is possible to bend the deficit curve in the right direction. The economy grew by 2.1% last year.

Trump has also signed two broader budget deals worked out by Democrats and Republicans to get rid of spending cuts left over from a failed 2011 budget accord. The result has been eye-popping spending levels for defense — to about \$750 billion this year — and significant gains for domestic programs favored by Democrats. Trump's new budget essentially freezes defense at current levels while proposing a 3% military pay hike.

The Trump budget also promises a \$3 billion increase — to \$25 billion — for NASA in hopes of returning astronauts to the moon and on to Mars. It contains a modest parental leave plan championed by first daughter Ivanka Trump and includes \$135 billion in savings over the coming decade as part of an unspecified set-aside to tackle the high cost of prescription drugs this year.

Trump's U.S.-Mexico border



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

President Donald Trump's budget request for fiscal year 2021 arrives at the House Budget Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday.

wall would receive a \$2 billion appropriation, more than provided by Congress but less than the \$8 billion requested last year. Trump has enough wall money on hand to build 1,000 miles of wall, a senior administration official said, most of it obtained by exploiting his budget transfer powers. The official requested anonymity to discuss the budget before it is made public.

With Medicare and Social Security largely off the table, Trump has instead focused on Medicaid, which provides care to more than 70 million poor and disabled people. President Barack Obama successfully expanded Medicaid

when passing the Affordable Care Act a decade ago, but Trump has endorsed GOP plans — they failed spectacularly in the Senate two years ago — to dramatically curb the program.

Trump's latest Medicaid proposal, the administration official said, would allow states that want more flexibility in Medicaid to accept their federal share as a lump sum; for states staying in traditional Medicaid, a 3% cap on cost growth would apply. Trump would also revive a plan, rejected by lawmakers in the past, to cut food stamp costs by providing much of the benefit as food shipments instead of cash.

Budget: Focus is on modern weapons needed to compete with Russia, China

FROM FRONT PAGE

of nearly 8,000 troops to operations around the globe.

But the underlying theme of the request is to prepare the military to fight the next war — that the Pentagon's top planners anticipate, which is to be a conflict against a nation-state with similar military capabilities to the United States, senior defense officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Friday. It is the second consecutive budget crafted based on the Pentagon's 2018 National Defense Strategy, which shifted the department's primary focus to great-power competition with Russia and China over the threat of international terrorist organizations that the United States has fought for nearly two decades.

That means new technology. The request includes \$106.6 billion for research, development, testing and evaluation of the modern weapons systems required to fight such a war, including \$3.2 billion meant to hasten the development of hypersonic weapons, \$1.5 billion for the development of 5G communications technology that officials said is critical to ensuring systems and troops can share information rapidly, \$1.7 billion earmarked for automation research, and another \$800 million for Pentagon organizations developing artificial intelligence capabilities.

It also means strengthening the three-legged U.S. nuclear deterrent, which the officials touted as the nation's foundation for preventing a major attack by another power. The proposal seeks a 20% boost in spending on upgrades to the Pentagon's aging nuclear triad and pouring nearly \$30 billion into ongoing projects. Those projects include \$4.4 billion for the Navy's future Columbia-class, ballistic-missile submarines, which is scheduled to begin construction next year, \$2.8 billion for the Air Force's future B-21 Raider bomber, which is scheduled to begin flying in 2022, and

\$1.5 billion for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, the replacement for the decades old Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles, expected to be completed in the late 2020s. It also includes some \$110 million toward a program to make some versions of the Air Force's F-35A Lightning II fighter jets nuclear capable. That is expected to occur by fiscal year 2024.

The budget also invests heavily in space and cyber capabilities. It includes \$18 billion for space, which would grow the Space Force, improve space-based missile warning capabilities, improve GPS systems, reduce the risk of satellite communications jamming and conduct three space launches. It would also spend nearly \$10 billion on cyber programs to improve offensive and defensive capabilities and bolster cybersecurity for Defense Department networks, systems and information.

While the budget is similar in scope to the fiscal year 2020 budget, and Pentagon officials foresee near-flat budgets well into the future, it proposes moving funding in older technology and non-military functions into warfighting coffers.

The officials said the Pentagon was forced to "make difficult choices," proposing to end investment in some aging but useful platforms, including KC-135 and KC-10 airborne tankers, B-1 bombers, F-15C fighters and cutting four Navy cruisers.

Defense officials also looked for savings within the Pentagon's so-called Fourth Estate, the non-warfighting agencies and activities — including Stars and Stripes — that are not assigned to a military service. After a review, officials proposed moving some \$5.3 billion in funding from these organizations to areas that contribute directly to "lethality."

The decisions, these officials said, were aimed at deciding "what is useful for the high-end fight."

Though lawmakers ultimately fund their

own priorities when allocating the Pentagon's budget, the yearly budget proposal outlines the Pentagon's top priorities for the coming year. It is the first budget proposal released under Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who both assumed their roles last year.

The Pentagon's budget proposal would allocate \$178 billion for the Army, \$161 billion for the Navy, \$46 billion for the Marine Corps, \$191.8 billion for the Air Force and \$15.4 billion for the Space Force.

It would boost the U.S. military's end strength with 5,600 new troops, bringing the total force to 2,153,500 troops, including active duty, reservists and National Guard members.

The 3% pay boost proposed for troops follows the 3.1% pay raise approved by Congress for them this year. The budget proposal also includes a 3.8% boost for basic allowance for housing and a 2.8% increase for subsistence allowance.

Among current weapons systems, the 2021 budget proposal invests heavily in airpower, as it did in 2020, while scaling back slightly its investment in shipbuilding. The Pentagon aims to spend nearly \$60 billion on aircraft in 2021. That includes \$15.1 billion for fighter jets — 79 F-35 Lightning II advanced fifth-generation fighters, 24 F/A-18E/F Super Hornets and 12 F-15EX Advanced Eagles. It would also spend \$3 billion on 15 KC-46 aerial tankers and \$1.2 billion on AH-64E attack helicopters.

The budget proposal calls for \$20 billion for ship building in 2021, down about \$4 billion from 2020, even as service officials continue to support legislation directing the U.S. fleet to grow from 298 ships in 2020 to 355 by 2030. The funding would allow the Navy to reach 306 in 2021.

The 2021 proposal calls for a modest investment in ground systems. It would spend \$1.4 billion on 4,247 Joint Light

Tactical Vehicles, the Army and Marine Corps' replacement for their aging Humvees. It would also spend \$521 million to purchase 72 amphibious combat vehicles for the Marines. It would spend \$1.4 billion to upgrade 89 M-1 Abrams tanks, and it would spend almost \$850 million on upgraded Stryker armored vehicles.

The senior defense officials declined to discuss their criteria for determining how much funding would be provided for ongoing military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and in Europe, where the U.S. troops partner with European allies to train in an effort to deter Russian aggression on the continent. But the budget proposal documents show cuts to spending on these operations.

The primary Overseas Contingency Operations account — money earmarked for wartime and other overseas missions — would be cut by about \$12.9 billion to a total of \$53 billion for 2021. It includes a \$3.2 billion cut to fund the ongoing wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan, but the documents do not specify what would actually be reduced. It also would decrease funding for the European Deterrence Initiative by \$1.5 billion, to \$4.5 billion for next year.

The proposed budget envisions a drop in force levels on temporary deployments in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Europe and other locations from more than 99,000 in 2019 to just more than 91,000 last year. The officials said predicting such troop levels is difficult in any given year.

They expected such a troop reduction globally in 2019, but tensions with Iran actually produced an increase in the number of deployed troops globally, as the United States shuttled tens of thousands of new troops into the Middle East through 2019 and 2020.

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WAR/MILITARY

Most in NATO sure US would help

Survey also finds reluctance to aid an attacked ally

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Most NATO countries trust the United States to come to their defense if attacked by Russia, but few would be willing to return the favor, a new survey has found.

Majorities in 16 member states surveyed by the Pew Research Center said they believe the U.S. military would defend them if they were attacked, but only in five of the countries polled — the U.S., Netherlands, Canada, United Kingdom and Lithuania — did majorities say their country should use force to defend an ally, the survey said.

“There is widespread reluctance to fulfill the collective defense commitment outlined in Article 5 of NATO’s founding treaty,” the report said.

NATO’s Article 5, which states that an attack on one member requires a response from all, is the linchpin of the alliance that was formed 75 years ago as a collective bulwark against the Soviet Union.

Overall, member states continue to view NATO favorably, the poll found. A median of 53% in the 16 allies polled held positive views toward NATO while 27% had an unfavorable opinion.

But even in the country with the highest support for the alliance — Poland, where 82% approve — only 40% said their military should come to the defense of another if attacked by Russia. Only a minority of Poles, 47%, also believed the U.S. would use force to



TOMARIUS ROBERTS/U.S. Army

A 1st Cavalry Division soldier fires a M249 Light Machine Gun during training at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, last month. Most NATO members are confident the U.S. will come to their defense if attacked by Russia, but are unwilling to do the same in return, according to a survey released Sunday.

defend them if they were attacked by Russia, the poll found.

In the U.S., 60% said America should use force to defend an ally under attack by Russia. Only the Netherlands, at 64%, was more willing to defend an ally in a similar situation.

Two other important NATO countries — Germany and France — were opposed to using military force to defend another member. In Germany, 60% said the country should not defend an ally under attack. In France, 53% held the same view.

“The belief that their country

should respond to a hypothetical Russian attack on a NATO ally has become less common over time in a handful of countries,” Pew said.

Majorities in both France and Germany however, said they believed the U.S. would defend an ally under attack, the poll found.

While Germans still have a favorable view of the alliance — 57% in 2019 — that is down from 67% in 2017. Support for NATO in France dropped from 60% in 2017 to 49% in 2019.

In the U.S., attitudes toward NATO differ by political party

affiliation, with Democrats more likely than Republicans to have a favorable opinion, the survey said. In 2019, 61% of Democrats had a positive view of the alliance, compared with 45% of Republicans.

In addition to the 16 member states surveyed, Pew also polled three nonmembers about the alliance. Majorities in Sweden and Ukraine had favorable opinions of NATO, while, not surprisingly, only 16% did in Russia.

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Iran: Death of Soleimani weakens ISIS fight

Associated Press

VIENNA — The head of Iran’s nuclear program said Monday the U.S. killing of a high-ranking Iranian general has weakened the fight against Islamic State in the region.

Ali Akbar Salehi told a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna that last month’s drone strike that killed Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani showed “the U.S. administration has not yet come to its senses in recognizing the realities on the ground.”

Washington targeted Soleimani, who headed Iran’s expeditionary Quds Force, saying that he was planning attacks on Americans.

In his role, Soleimani was also critical to efforts to mobilize militias in Iraq to fight the ISIS, and Salehi called him “the most instrumental element in combating ISIS.”

Tehran retaliated for the killing of Soleimani by launching a barrage of missiles on two Iraqi military bases hosting American troops.

There were no fatalities. Salehi reiterated, however, that Iran was prepared to do more.

“Be it known as my country strongly retaliated once, it will never hesitate to strike back when necessary,” he said.

The U.S. last month added new sanctions on Salehi’s Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and on Salehi himself, freezing any assets the director had within U.S. jurisdiction.

In Vienna, U.S. Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette focused his remarks on Iran’s nuclear program, saying Tehran was still not providing the IAEA with answers about the discovery of uranium particles in a warehouse near the Iranian capital.

“We call on Iran to cooperate fully with IAEA in monitoring and inspecting Iran’s facilities, and in addressing all of the agency’s questions,” he said.

Fewer acres planted, yet Afghan opium yield likely rose

By PHILLIP WALTERS
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan could see one of the highest yields of opium in nearly a decade, even though 146,000 fewer acres — the equivalent of 111,000 football fields — were planted to poppies last year, White House estimates show.

While land used to grow poppies in Afghanistan declined by nearly 30% between 2018 and 2019, the amount of opium extracted from the flowers’ seed pods likely increased by over 20%, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy said Friday, citing estimates of both cultivation and opium production.

Despite the U.S. spending billions since 2001 to combat Afghanistan’s lucrative drug trade, the country continues to be the world’s largest grower of the poppy from which opium and

heroin are produced.

Ninety percent of the world’s opium and 80% of the world’s heroin come from Afghanistan, the United Nations has said.

“Although heroin originating from Afghanistan is not a driving force of the United States opioid epidemic, drug revenue generated by insurgents prolongs insecurity and fuels corruption,” the ONDCP said.

The country’s drug trade has ballooned since U.S.-led forces invaded in 2001 and toppled the Taliban, who banned poppy cultivation. The opiate economy in Afghanistan was valued at between \$1.2 billion and \$2.2 billion in 2018, and represented between 6% and 11% of Afghanistan’s GDP, said a report by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime.

The estimated 6,700 metric tons of pure opium produced in Afghanistan last year would

mark the second-highest yield in nearly a decade, exceeded only by the 9,140 metric tons recorded by the ONDCP in 2017.

Favorable weather and harvesting conditions led to the higher yields, the ONDCP said, warning that the sharp rise in opium production in Afghanistan will have an impact around the world.

“The consequences of Afghanistan heroin trafficking are felt by the citizens of Afghanistan and countries along worldwide drug trafficking routes,” it said. Plants grew significantly bigger last spring than the same period the previous year, poppy farmers in Kandahar province told Stars and Stripes in April.

Many Afghan poppy farmers have said that, even though it’s illegal to grow opium poppies, they are the only crop that provides them with enough income to feed their families. They sometimes

pay bribes to Afghan officials so they will turn a blind eye and allow them to cultivate the lucrative crop, they said.

“The United States Government will continue its work to enhance its long-standing partnership with the government of Afghanistan to address this serious problem,” the ONDCP pledged.

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EUROPE

Winter storm batters Europe with winds, rain

Severe weather kills at least 6, disrupts travel as it moves eastward

By FRANK JORDANS
AND PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

BERLIN — A storm battered Europe with hurricane-force winds and heavy rains, killing at least six people and causing severe travel disruptions as it moved eastward across the continent Monday and bore down on Germany.

After striking Britain and Ireland on Sunday, the storm moved on, leaving a trail of damage including power cuts for tens of thousands of homes across Europe.

A woman and her 15-year-old daughter died in Poland after the storm ripped off the roof of a ski rental equipment building in the mountain resort of Bukowina Tatrzańska and sent it hurtling onto people standing near a ski lift, police said. Three people also were injured in the incident.

In Sweden, one man drowned after the boat he and another person were sailing in on the southern lake of Fegen capsized. The victim was washed ashore and later died. The other person is still missing, according to the Aftonbladet daily.

Two men, one in the north of Slovenia and another in southern England, also died after their cars were hit by falling trees. And in Germany, a driver died after crashing his truck into a trailer parked by workers clearing storm debris off a highway in the southern state of Hesse.

Five people were injured in the Czech Republic in incidents related to the storm, authorities said, including a woman who was hospitalized after she was hit by a tree. The number of Czech households without electricity reached 290,000, according to power company CEZ.

Britain, which bore the brunt of the storm Sunday, was assessing the damage and working to get power restored to 20,000 homes. However, for parts of northern England and Scotland, the respite is set to be brief, with forecasts of blizzards and snow.

"While Storm Ciara is clearing away, that doesn't mean we're entering a quieter period of weather," said Alex Burkill, a meteorologist at Britain's Met Office.

Many parts of the country were mopping up after a month and a half's rain fell in just 24 hours in some places and rivers burst their banks. Though 360 flood warnings have been removed as the storm moves on, around 75 remain in place across the country.

The River Irwell burst its banks in northern England, prompting authorities to evacuate residents. And in the Scottish town of Hawick, which borders England, a guest house and bistro collapsed into the raging River Teviot. No one was injured.

In another dramatic scene, a driver managed to escape unhurt in the early hours of Monday when a car fell nose-first into a sinkhole in a residential street in the town of Brentwood, east of London. Six properties had to be evacuated due to the unstable ground that is said to have been linked to a partially collapsed sewer. The emergency services made the scene safe just before daybreak.

The British government said it was offering financial compensation through its emergency Belfry scheme. Under the scheme, local authorities dealing with the storm can apply to have certain costs



STEVE PARSONS, PA/AP

A man walks with a dog Monday in floodwater in Bosham, England, after the storm named Ciara battered the U.K. and northern Europe with hurricane-force winds and heavy rains Sunday.

US bases in Germany begin damage assessment

By JENNIFER SVAN
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The U.S. military in Germany began damage assessments Monday after a winter storm packing hurricane-force winds blew across the country Sunday night, while meteorologists warned that the storm isn't over.

The storm called Ciara in the U.K. and Sabine in Germany knocked out power, downed trees and damaged homes and cars in the Kaiserslautern area, German police and social media groups reported. The storm is responsible for six deaths elsewhere in Europe, The Associated Press reported.

There were no indications of major destruction or injuries at U.S. bases, though officials said they were still evaluating the damage.

Gusts of 93 mph were reported overnight in Neustadt an der Weinstrasse, a small city about 20 miles southeast of the Army's Kiebel Kaserne in Kaiserslautern. Further south, Feldberg in the Black Forest saw gusts of 109 mph, German news outlet SWR said.

The German Meteorological Service

reimbursed.

Network Rail, which runs the country's rail infrastructure, said thousands of engineers had "battled horrendous conditions" after the storm blew trees, sheds, roofs and even trampolines onto the tracks.

Airlines operating to and from U.K. airports were still being affected by the storm, with more than 100 flights canceled.

The storm has now largely passed through France, though meteorologists warned that the Mediterranean island of Corsica could see winds as high as 124 mph later Monday.

said sustained winds were expected Monday to range from 45-60 mph in Rheinland-Pfalz, the state where about 50,000 service members, families and other Defense Department personnel live. Localized gusts could reach 65 mph, said Ines Wiegand, a meteorologist with the weather service.

There will be periodic lulls but "the winds will pick up speed again," Wiegand said, adding that winds were expected to average 30-45 mph Tuesday in the Kaiserslautern area.

Ramstein Air Base had no reports of major damage Monday and said they probably wouldn't know the extent of damage for another day or two, when operations are expected to return to normal. Nearby villages experienced high winds and some road blockages, including a trampoline in the middle of the road in Quiedersbach, police said.

Rhine Ordnance Barracks in Kaiserslautern reported minor damage, including fallen trees, a broken phone cable and power loss to two buildings, a base spokesman said. The trees were cleared and power was restored, the spokesman said.

Defense Department schools closed

In Germany, utility companies were also scrambling to restore power to some 50,000 homes in northern Bavaria, where a top wind of over 100 mph was recorded. The storm resulted in a record amount of electricity being fed into the German grid from wind turbines, equivalent to almost 44 nuclear power plants.

The storm, which was initially called Ciara by the Irish weather service but dubbed Sabine in Germany, also led to school closures in several cities and regions, including Germany's North Rhine-Westphalia state, where several people

were injured by falling branches and toppling trees. Parts of a construction crane fell onto the roof of Frankfurt Cathedral overnight.

Even though there were no reported fatalities in Belgium, the storm had an emotional impact in the central town of Zottegem, where a scenic 150-year-old poplar tree was snapped at its roots, before falling and being pulverized on a country road.

The tree had been granted protected status by the Flemish regional government and locals now plan to have a special remembrance service on Friday.

The German Meteorological Service said Sabine is a type of winter storm that can be expected once every two years.

Stars and Stripes reporter Christopher Dennis contributed to this report.

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MILITARY

Renovated Yokosuka USO gives troops updated kitchen, theater

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A 1½-year-old renovation project concluded recently with the grand reopening of Yokosuka's USO, which now features a fancy kitchen, gaming areas and an 85-inch television with theater-style seating.

"There're USOs all over the world, which serve sailors and their families just like this, but what you've done with this renovation, when you walk through this door, it feels just like home," base commander Capt. Rich Jar-

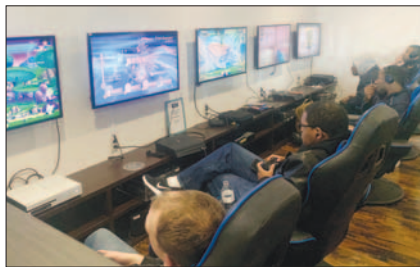
rett said during Friday's event. The nonprofit USO renovates its centers every seven to 10 years, according to USO area operations manager Danielle Haley. The Yokosuka branch closed its doors in late 2018 and reopened Friday with newly installed, dark-brown hardwood floors, banks of televisions with gaming chairs, two new bathrooms for a total four and a full-size kitchen with accompanying island.

"I wanted to make sure we had the capability to give the service members what they wanted, which was food," said USO Center manager Lou Braxton. "For some

reason, the service members are always hungry, so I wanted to have a full-size kitchen and have it feel like home."

Three new arcade machines scattered around the center offer Pac-Man, Mortal Kombat 2 and Atari classics such as Asteroids and Caterpillar. Around the corner from the gaming area is a home theater with an 85-inch television.

"Having the new theater, we may now look into the option to hold sporting events or movie nights to add on to the current variety of programs and events we host," Braxton said.



CAITLIN DOORNBOOS/Stars and Stripes

Service members make use of the gaming stations Monday inside the newly renovated USO at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

Braxton declined to say how much the USO spent on the remodel. According to the nonprofit's IRS filing for 2018, the most recent available, it spent \$6.7 mil-

lion that year on all its programs and investments in the East Asia and Pacific region.

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Midshipman dies during Naval Academy physical readiness test

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A Navy midshipman died Saturday while taking a physical readiness test at the U.S. Naval Academy.

The academy identified the midshipman Sunday as Duke Carrillo, 21, of Flower Mound, Texas. Officials said in a news release that Carrillo collapsed during the

1.5-mile run portion of the Navy's semi-annual physical readiness test.

Officials said initial responders provided exhaustive resuscitation efforts, then Carrillo was rushed to Anne Arundel Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead at 12:23 p.m. Saturday.

The academy said the circumstances surrounding the cause of his death are

under review.

Vice Adm. Sean Buck, 63rd Superintendent of the Naval Academy, called Carrillo's death a "sudden and tragic loss."

"Our most heartfelt sympathies and condolences go out to the entire Carrillo family, and our extended Naval Academy family, during this extremely difficult time," Buck said.

Officials said Carrillo, and his twin brother, Dylan, reported to Annapolis in June 2018 after completing a year at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, R.I.

Duke Carrillo was a member of the 24th Company, an intramural athlete, and a member of the Naval Academy's Flight Training Squadron.



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NATION

Biden downplays NH amid last-minute scramble

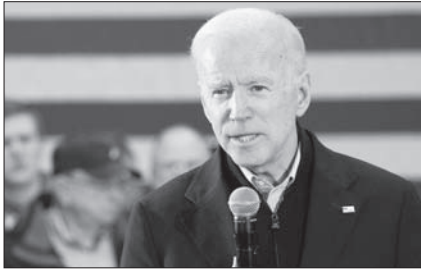
Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his top backers are downplaying expectations on the eve of New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary, while his rivals for the nomination look to the Granite State for a new springboard.

"You've got to get 1,900 delegates or more, and this is just getting started," Biden said Monday, repeating his argument that the first two mostly white states in Democrats' nominating process will not determine the nominee of a racially diverse party.

No result in Tuesday's primary, Biden said, "knocks you out of the box."

Yet Biden's challenge in the opening states highlights a larger concern for Democrats as they look to start a bidding war to take on President Donald Trump: No would-be nominee has proven an ability to build a strong coalition across the party's various racial,



MARY ALTAFIER/AP

Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a campaign rally Sunday in Hudson, N.H.

ethnic and ideological factions, and that situation is muddled further by the vote-tabulation melee in last week's Iowa caucuses that left both Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg claiming victory.

Trump, meanwhile, is eager to cast a shadow over the entire Democratic field as he heads to Manchester for a Monday evening rally to continue his victory-and-vengeance tour following Senate

votes last Wednesday that acquitted Trump on two impeachment charges. Trump lost New Hampshire in 2016 by fewer than 3,000 votes out of more than 743,000 cast, and the state is among several his reelection campaign believes it can flip in November.

Against that backdrop, Biden insisted Monday that he remains well-positioned for the nomination and to defeat Trump in November. He pointed to endorsements from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Michigan's legislative black caucus that he's gotten since his bad finish in Iowa.

Despite that, no Democrats have shown an ability to separate themselves from the pack.

Sanders and Buttigieg are vying in New Hampshire for momentum that could dent Biden's claims to national support. But Sanders, a democratic socialist, has virtually no support from the party's center-left core, and some establishment figures openly fret

about the prospects of Sanders leading the ticket in November.

Buttigieg draws large crowds with his calls for generational change, but the 38-year-old former mayor of South Bend, Ind., hasn't demonstrated significant support from African American or Latino voters, who will become significant parts of the Democratic electorate in the states that follow New Hampshire. And several of his rivals, Biden included, have started hammering his comparatively thin resume.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, meanwhile, has shown flashes of a broad coalition, as she tries to compete with Sanders on the party's left flank and with Buttigieg for more moderate white college graduates. She's added a relatively new argument in New Hampshire, pitching herself as the candidate who can best unify the party. But she and Biden both face a potential money crunch if donors are spooked by the results Tuesday.

Vets urge Trump to intervene on Agent Orange decision

BY NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — On Monday, eight of the country's largest veterans organizations urged President Donald Trump to fast-track benefits, after years of delays, for thousands of Vietnam War veterans suffering from four medical conditions thought to be caused by Agent Orange.

The groups asked Trump to add bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, hypertension and Parkinson's-like symptoms to the list of conditions presumed to be caused by chemical herbicides used in the Vietnam War. Being on the presumptive list lowers the amount of proof veterans need to provide in order to receive VA benefits.

Veterans have been waiting years for the Department of Veterans Affairs to add the conditions. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie recently indicated that a decision wasn't likely to come until the end of 2020, when the results of two more scientific studies on the issue are expected to be published.

In a seven-page letter, the veterans organizations criticized the VA for dragging its feet and undercutting scientific data that already exists. They also raised concerns that members of Trump's administration had rejected the addition of the four conditions because of cost concerns.

"The continued delayed action by VA is causing additional suffering for Vietnam veterans and their families," the groups wrote. "We urge you to take action and to end the wait, needless suffering and disappointment for an entire generation of veterans."

Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, the Fleet Reserve Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America and AMVETS signed onto the letter.

The letter comes one week after Richard Stone, the executive in charge of the Veterans Health Administration, told senators that the VA wanted to take a closer look at whether hypertension, in particular, was caused by Agent Orange exposure. He said that there's doubt because the age demographic of Vietnam War veterans is at higher risk for the condition.

The veterans organizations said that the delay was "unnecessary."

"The scientific community has already provided enough significant data, studies and associations linking these four diseases to Agent Orange exposure," they wrote.

In 2018, researchers with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine found for the first time that enough evidence exists to link hypertension to Agent Orange exposure. Researchers also determined there was "suggestive" evidence linking Agent Orange to hypothyroidism.

A 2016 report from the academies determined that there was "limited" or "suggestive" evidence linking Agent Orange to bladder cancer. That year, the academies also clarified that Parkinson-like symptoms should be considered as part of Parkinson's disease, which is on the list of presumptive diseases.

The veterans groups argued that in the VA's recent reports

to Congress about this issue, the agency had tried to undercut the reports from the National Academies. The groups also raised concerns that the White House's Office of Management and Budget had rejected the addition of three of the conditions because of their monetary cost.

Under then-VA Secretary David Shulkin, the agency recommended in 2016 the addition of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinson's-like tremors to the presumptive list. Shulkin's recommendation never made it past the OMB. Lawmakers were told at the time that OMB was waiting on the results of more scientific studies.

OMB and Mick Mulvaney, its director at the time, objected to the recommendation. In addition to a lack of scientific evidence, OMB had concerns about the budgetary implications of expanding access to VA benefits to the thousands of veterans diagnosed with the conditions, Military Times reported, citing emails between Shulkin and OMB.

In their letter Monday, the veterans groups said it was "alarming" that the administration had weighed the cost of the benefits against the veterans in need of assistance.

"When taking all of this into consideration, it appears VA is not waiting on additional science, but continuing to stonewall and delay adding these four diseases based in part on monetary concerns," they wrote. "This is troubling."

They asked Trump to immediately intervene and direct Wilkie to add the four conditions.

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WJXT, News4Jax/AP

A voter registration tent lays on its side after a man drove a van through it in Jacksonville, Fla.

Florida man charged with driving into Republican voter registration tent

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A man in Florida is under arrest after he deliberately drove a van into a tent where voters were being registered by local Republicans, authorities in Jacksonville said Sunday.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office said via social media that 27-year-old Gregory William Loel Timm has been charged with two counts of aggravated assault on a person 65 years old or older, one count of criminal mischief and driving with a suspended license. The Republican party of Duval County said that it had set up the tent Saturday to register voters.

The county GOP said via Twitter that six volunteers for President Donald Trump's campaign "were intentionally targeted while registering voters."

Local media said that there were no injuries.

"Kind of out of the blue, a man approached us in a van, was waving at us, kind of a friendly demeanor, thought he was coming up to talk to us, instead he accelerated his vehicle and plowed right into our tent, our tables," volunteer Mark Alfieri told television station WJAX.

Afterward, he backed up, recorded the damaged tent and scattered signs on his cellphone and made obscene gestures before leaving, Alfieri said.

In a tweet, GOP chairwoman Ronna McDaniel said, "These unprovoked, senseless attacks on @realDonaldTrump's supporters need to end."

President Donald Trump retweeted that message and added, "Be careful tough guys who you play with!"

In a statement, the Duval County Democratic Party condemned what it called "this cowardly act of violence."

NATION



RICK BOWMER/AP

Ann Lovell stands at the security checkpoint before her flight from Salt Lake City International Airport to San Diego.

Utah sends workers to Mexico to save on prescription costs

BY LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Ann Lovell had never owned a passport before last year. Now, the 62-year-old teacher is a frequent flier, traveling every few months to Tijuana, Mexico, to buy medication for rheumatoid arthritis — with tickets paid for by the state of Utah's public insurer.

Lovell is one of about 10 state workers in a year-old program to lower prescription drug costs by having public employees buy their medication in Mexico at a steep discount compared to U.S. prices. The program appears to be the first of its kind, and is a dramatic example of steps states are taking to alleviate the high cost of prescription drugs.

In one long, exhausting day, Lovell flies from Salt Lake City to San Diego. There, an escort takes her across the border to a Tijuana hospital, where she gets her prescription. After that, it's back to the airport to head home.

Lovell had been paying \$450 in copays every few months for her medication, though she said it would have increased to some

\$2,400 if she had not started traveling to Mexico. Without the program, she would not be able to afford the medicine she needs.

"This is the drug that keeps me functioning, working," said Lovell, who works at an early-intervention program for deaf students that's part of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind. "I think if I wasn't on this drug ... I'd be on disability rather than living my normal life."

The cost difference is so large that the state's insurance program for public employees can pay for each patient's flight, give them a \$500-per-trip bonus and still save tens of thousands of dollars.

While importation of prescription drugs is illegal because drugs sold in other countries haven't been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. allows people to bring in a three-month supply for personal use.

"It is unfortunate and, in fact, wrong that the citizens of this great country have to travel to other countries to get drugs they need at affordable prices," said David Mitchell, founder of the advocacy group Patients For Affordable Drugs.

Man arrested near White House for Trump threat

The Washington Post

A Florida man with a knife in a sheath on his hip was arrested about a block from the White House on Saturday for threatening to kill the president, authorities said Sunday.

"I am here to assassinate President Donald Trump," Roger Hedgpeth, 25, told a Secret Service officer, according to a report from D.C. police. "I have a knife to do it with."

Hedgpeth, from Brandon, Fla., was described in the report as a "critically missing/endangered

person as well as a mental health consumer."

The Secret Service took him into custody for making threats to do bodily harm and possession of a prohibited weapon. The sheathed knife on his left hip had a 3½-inch blade, authorities said. Hedgpeth also wore an empty pistol holster on his right hip, police said.

The incident took place Saturday afternoon at the northwest corner of 15th Street NW and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, according to the report.

NASA seeking to capture 1st look at sun's poles

BY MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Europe and NASA's Solar Orbiter rocketed into space Sunday night on an unprecedented mission to capture the first pictures of the sun's elusive poles.

"We're on the way to the sun. Go Solar Orbiter!" said Cesar Garcia Marinrodriga, project manager for the European Space Agency. "It's a fantastic moment ... it's like, well, we're unstoppable."

The \$1.5 billion spacecraft will join NASA's Parker Solar Probe, launched 1½ years ago, in coming perilously close to the sun to unveil its secrets.

While Solar Orbiter won't venture close enough to penetrate the sun's corona, or crown-like outer atmosphere, like Parker, it will maneuver into a unique out-of-plane orbit that will take it over both poles, never photographed before. Together with powerful ground observatories, the sun-starting space duo will be like an orchestra, according to Gunther Hasinger, the European Space Agency's science director.

"Every instrument plays a different tune, but together they play the symphony of the sun," Hasinger said.

Nearly 1,000 scientists and engineers from across Europe gathered with their U.S. colleagues under a full moon as United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket blasted off, illuminating the sky for miles around. Crowds also jammed nearby roads and



MALCOLM DENMARK, FLORIDA TODAY/AP

In this wide angle and long exposure shot, United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket, lifts off Sunday night from Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

beaches.

The rocket was visible for four full minutes after liftoff, a brilliant star piercing the night sky. Europe's project scientist Daniel Mueller was thrilled, calling it "picture perfect." His NASA counterpart, scientist Holly Gilbert, exclaimed, "One word: Wow."

NASA declared success 1½ hours later, once the Solar Orbiter's solar wings were unfurled.

Solar Orbiter — a boxy 4,000-pound spacecraft with spindly instrument booms and antennas — will swing past Venus in December and again next year, and then past Earth, using the planets' gravity to alter its path. Full science operations will begin in late 2021, with the first close

solar encounter in 2022 and more every six months. At its closest approach, Solar Orbiter will come within 26 million miles of the sun, well within the orbit of Mercury.

Closer to home, the findings will help scientists better predict space weather, which can disrupt communications.

"We need to know how the sun affects the local environment here on Earth, and also Mars and the moon when we move there," said Ian Walters, project manager for Airbus Defence and Space, which designed and built the spacecraft. "We've been lucky so far the last 150 years," since a colossal solar storm last hit. "We need to predict that. We just can't wait for it to happen."

Gunman ambushes NYC police twice in 12 hours, sparks outrage

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A gunman was arrested after he ambushed police officers in the Bronx twice in 12 hours, authorities said, wounding two in attacks that brought outrage from officials who blamed the violence on an atmosphere of anti-police rhetoric.

Robert Williams, 45, of the Bronx, was captured after he walked into a police station in the Bronx and started shooting shortly before 8 a.m. Sunday, police said. His shots struck a lieutenant in the arm and narrowly missed other police personnel before he ran out of bullets, lay down and tossed his pistol, officials said.

That attack came just hours after Williams approached a patrol van in the same part of the Bronx and fired at two officers inside, wounding one before escaping on foot, police said.

All of those shot are expected to recover, authorities said.

"It is only by the grace of God and the heroic actions of those inside the building that took him into custody that we are not talking about police officers murdered inside a New York City police precinct," Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said.

Williams is being charged with attempted murder, criminal weapon possession and resisting arrest, police said in an email late Sunday identifying him as the suspect. He was hospitalized Sunday evening, the Bronx prosecutor's office said.

Williams had been upset since his own son died after being shot in the Bronx, the suspect's grandmother told the New York Post.

"He was depressed at times because his son got shot in the street," Mary Williams, 80, told the newspaper. "That was his only child."

The officer injured in the first shooting, Paul Strofollino, was

released from the hospital Sunday to applause from colleagues. The officer, with a bandage on his neck, gave a thumbs-up.

Shea called Williams a "coward" and said that he had a long criminal history, including a 2002 shooting and carjacking in which he fired a gun at police. He was paroled from prison in 2017 after an attempted murder conviction, Shea said.

The commissioner also lashed out at criminal justice reform activists who have demonstrated in recent months against excessive force by police. The protests, he suggested, helped create an anti-police environment.

"These things are not unrelated. We had people marching through the streets of New York City recently," Shea said. "Words matter. And words affect people's behavior."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Coronavirus prompts delay in statue trial

PA PHILADELPHIA — The retrial of a Delaware man who acknowledged having broken a thumb off a \$4.5 million statue at a Philadelphia museum was indefinitely postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak in the home country of the relic.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported that federal prosecutors said in a court filing that several Chinese witnesses essential to their case against Michael Rohana, 26, would be unable to travel to Philadelphia for the Feb. 18 retrial.

The Bear resident was attending a Christmas-themed ugly sweater party at the Franklin Institute in 2017 when authorities said he entered a closed exhibit of ancient Chinese terra cotta warrior statues, snapped the thumb of a statue called "The Cavalryman" and left with it. The incident was captured by surveillance cameras.

Parallel parking removed from driving exams

NV LAS VEGAS — The Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles eliminated the parallel parking portion of the driving skills test.

The test still meets the national standards set by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators even without the parallel parking element, department public information officer Kevin Malone said.

"Testing of the parking skills needed is met by the requirements of entering, and backing out of, a perpendicular parking space and by other vehicle control requirements," Malone said.

Police: Trooper bitten by woman after traffic stop

IN TERRE HAUTE — A western Indiana woman was accused of hitting a state trooper's arm following a traffic stop in Vigo County, southwest of Indianapolis.

The 38-year-old Terre Haute woman was a front-seat passenger in an SUV stopped for running a stop sign, state police said. The 51-year-old male driver was arrested on drunken driving and other charges.

Police said that the woman initially refused to identify herself to the trooper and had to be removed from the SUV and arrested.

Three children in the rear of the SUV were released to the woman's grandmother.

Numerous fox attacks push city to try trapping

ME BATH — Maine has been the site of more than a half dozen attacks on people by foxes in the last few months, prompting one city to try trapping the animals.

Foxes are common in Maine and are typically skittish around humans, but the state's midcoast region has been the site of numerous attacks in the past six



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Dancing for scholarships

Young dancers warm up for the Youth America Grand Prix North America Regional semifinals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Friday. Since its founding 21 years ago, Youth America Grand Prix has become the largest student scholarship competition in the world. The final round will take place in New York in April.

months.

The Bath City Council voted unanimously Feb. 5 to spend \$26,000 to lay out traps to catch foxes. The city is partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the effort, WGME-TV reported.

Bill would get slow drivers out of left lane

SC COLUMBIA — Some South Carolina lawmakers are backing a proposal to allow officers to pull over people who drive too slowly in the left lane of major roads.

Many lawmakers find their way to Columbia on interstates that only have two lanes in each direction, and supporters of the bill said that something needs to be done to encourage anyone not passing another vehicle to get out of the left lane.

The House version of the bill would have a fine of \$200 and add two points to an offender's driver's licence. The Senate version would only have a fine of \$100.

Board agrees to bid to allow psychedelics

DC WASHINGTON — Supporters of a proposal to decriminalize the use of certain psychedelic plants and fungi are one step closer to putting the measure on the ballot in the District of Columbia.

The DC Board of Elections

THE CENSUS

\$7K

crimes could be prosecuted under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The amount of money offered by U.S. and Wyoming officials for information in the investigation of the poisoning deaths of three dogs and dozens of birds, including a bald eagle. The poisonings happened in January 2018, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published them Friday. The

agreed to allow the proposal to be put up for a citywide vote in November, news outlets reported.

The initiative aims to place the use of psychedelic plants, often referred to as magic mushrooms, among the lowest priorities for law enforcement.

The proposal now moves to a challenge period in which proponents must gather 25,000 signatures to officially place the measure on the ballot.

Deputies take man, dog into custody in theft

FL BRANDON — A Florida man and his furry "accomplice" were taken into custody by authorities who said that the man shoplifted from a store. Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office said that Logan Wilson was charged with petit theft and possession of meth, WTSP-TV reported.

Wilson admitted to stealing \$259 worth of items from Bass Pro Shops, deputies said.

Deputies also took Wilson's four-legged friend into custody.

A sheriff's office Facebook post showing an officer holding a puppy said that deputies took care of the "cutest accomplice" before handing him over to Hillsborough County Animal Services.

One-eyed hawk found safe after windstorm

MT KALISPELL — A one-eyed hawk that went missing after a weekend windstorm knocked over its enclosure at a rehabilitation facility in western Montana was found safe.

Bird rehabilitator Kari Gabriel climbed the ladder of a Kalispell Fire Department bucket truck with a firefighter who used a net to capture the bird in a tree, NBC Montana reported.

Gabriel realized that Hawkeye was missing when she found her cage overturned Feb. 1.

Man sent photos of hanged cat to children

NY BUFFALO — A man was charged with ag-

gravated cruelty to animals and endangering the welfare of a child after police said he hanged his children's cat and sent them photos of the dead pet.

Antonio Martin of Buffalo was arraigned Friday before state Supreme Court Justice Deborah Haendiges on an indictment charging him with felony animal cruelty and two misdemeanor charges of endangering the welfare of a child.

Buffalo police said that Martin hanged the cat from the children's bunk bed in early September and texted pictures of it to them. No motive was given for the act.

UMass Lowell, Navy yard sign educational deal

ME KITTERY — A Maine naval shipyard and the University of Massachusetts Lowell entered into an educational partnership to share technology and enhance student education.

The five-year agreement between Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, located in Kittery, and UMass allows the Navy to make its scientific, engineering and technology assets and subject matter experts available to university faculty. In turn, the Navy is able to involve UMass Lowell faculty and students in innovative projects underway at the shipyard.

From wire reports

FACES

Night of 'Parasite'

Critically praised South Korean film first foreign-language movie to take best picture at the Academy Awards

By JOSH ROTTENBERG
Los Angeles Times

In a surprise upset and a historic milestone, director Bong Joon Ho's "Parasite" — a darkly comic class satire about two families, one rich and one poor, whose lives become entangled — won best picture Sunday night at the 92nd Academy Awards, becoming the first foreign-language film ever to win the film academy's top prize.

Throughout awards season, "Parasite" was seen by many as the underdog in a field that ranged from the gangster drama "The Irishman" to the 1960s fantasia "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" to the World War I movie "1917." But over time, the South Korean film worked its way into the hearts of Oscar voters, whose ranks have grown increasingly international and diverse in recent years.

The road to the Oscar for "Parasite" kicked off last May when the film claimed the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Festival. Despite Bong's idiosyncratic, genre-scrambling vision — or perhaps because of it — "Parasite" went on to become a mainstream box office success like few foreign-language films in memory, earning the Screen Actors Guild's ensemble award along with a slew of critics' group prizes.

"Parasite" claimed four Oscars, with Bong winning the director prize along with best international feature film and original screenplay, the first time a South Korean filmmaker had claimed those prizes.

Bong seemed surprised to have won the directing prize over a field that included Sam Mendes, Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino. "After winning best international feature, I thought I was done for the day and was ready to relax," he said. "When I was young and studying cinema, there was a saying that I carved deep in my heart, which is that the most personal is the most creative. That quote is from our great Martin Scorsese."

Heading into the night, "1917" was widely considered the favorite to beat, having swept the director and drama honors at the Golden Globes as well as the top prizes from the Producers and Directors guilds. In contrast to the boundary-pushing "Parasite," director Sam Mendes' war epic is in many ways a more old-fashioned Oscar film, boasting the sort of epic sweep, period setting and rousing themes of bravery and sacrifice that often have been hallmarks of best picture winners dating back to the first one, 1927's silent World War I movie "Wings."

In recent years, the academy has brought in hundreds of new members from overseas as part of its continuing effort to diversify its historically white-male-dominated membership. In naming "Parasite" best picture and best international feature — the first time a South Korean film has earned that prize — the organization seemed to be embracing the chance to show it has become less parochial and more open-minded than it might have been in decades past.

The acting prizes were largely foregone conclusions, with each of the winners having opened insurmountable leads over

Academy Award winners

Best picture: "Parasite"
Best actor: Joaquin Phoenix, "Joker"
Best actress: Renee Zellweger, "Judy"
Best director: Bong Joon Ho, "Parasite"
Best supporting actor: Brad Pitt, "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"
Best supporting actress: Laura Dern, "Marriage Story"
Animated feature: "Toy Story 4"
Animated short film: "Hair Love"
Original screenplay: "Parasite," Bong Joon Ho and Jin Won Han
Adapted screenplay: "Jojo Rabbit," Taika Waititi
Live action short film: "The Neighbors' Window"
Production design: "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"
Costume design: "Little Women"
Documentary feature: "American Factory"
Documentary short subject: "Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You're a Girl)"
Sound Editing: "Ford v Ferrari," Don Sylvester
Sound mixing: "1917," Mark Taylor and Stuart Wilson
Cinematography: Roger Deakins, "1917"
Film editing: "Ford v Ferrari"
Visual effects: "1917"
Makeup and hairstyling: "Bombshell"
International film: "Parasite," South Korea
Original score: Hildur Guðnadóttir, "Joker"
Original song: "I'm Gonna Love Me Again," "Rocketman" (Music by Elton John, lyrics by Bernie Taupin)
From The Associated Press

their competition early in the awards race.

Joaquin Phoenix, who swept virtually every major acting prize leading up to the Oscars, won the lead actor award for his physically transformative turn as a troubled would-be comedian turned supervillain in the dark comic-book film "Joker."

In the run-up to the Oscars, Phoenix's acceptance speeches at the Golden Globes, SAG Awards and BAFTAs had been every bit as unpredictable and mesmerizing, in their own way, as his performance in "Joker" — and on that score, his Oscar acceptance speech didn't disappoint, with the actor touching on themes of inclusion, environmental and personal redemption and choking up as he invoked his late brother, River.

"I've been a scoundrel in my life — I've been selfish, I've been cruel at times, hard to work with, and I'm grateful that so many in this room have given me a second chance," said Phoenix, who had never previously won an Oscar. "I think that's when we're at our best, when we support each other."

As expected, Renee Zellweger won the lead actress award for her turn as Hollywood icon Judy Garland near the end of her turbulent life in "Judy," telling the starchy crowd in the Dolby Theatre that when we celebrate heroes like Garland, "we're reminded of who we are as one people — united."

In the supporting categories, academy



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

Bong Joon Ho, right, receives the statuette for best picture for "Parasite" from presenter Jane Fonda at the Academy Awards on Sunday night at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. "Parasite" won four Oscars, including best director for Bong.

South Koreans react joyfully to 'Parasite' wins

South Koreans reacted with rare collective joy Monday after director Bong Joon Ho's "Parasite" won the Oscar for best picture and three other awards, good news that came as their country struggles to guard against a new virus and counter North Korea's nuclear threat.

The movie's wins made history in the Hollywood and South Korean film industries. The class satire is the first non-English-language film to win best picture in the 92-year history of the Academy Awards, and is the first South Korean movie to ever win an Oscar.

"Can you believe that 'Parasite' won the Academy best picture?" South Korea's biggest newspaper, Chosun Ilbo, said in a headline. "It rewrote the Academy's 92-year-old history."

South Korean social media were overwhelmed with congratulatory messages.

Bong, "Parasite" and other Oscar-related news also dominated search terms throughout Monday at major internet portal sites, which had been preoccupied with the outbreak of a virus in China that has killed more than 900 people and sickened tens of thousands of others, mainly in China.

President Moon Jae-in tweeted that he is proud of Bong and his staff and "particularly grateful to them for giving courage and pride to our people who are overcoming difficulties."

Hyunjeon Jeong, a 10-year-old "Parasite" actor who remained in Seoul, shouted with joy as he watched a TV broadcast of the awards.

"I thought it would be awesome to get them, and we actually won them," Jeong told The Associated Press. "So I am wondering if I am in heaven."

From The Associated Press

voters spread their love to two veterans who, despite being veritable industry royalty, had never won acting Oscars. Laura Dern won for her performance as a fierce divorce lawyer in "Marriage Story," while Brad Pitt won for his turn as a grizzled stunt man in Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," injecting one of the most charged political moments into the night in his acceptance speech. "They told me only have 45 seconds up here, which is 45 seconds more than the Senate gave (former national security adviser) John Bolton [at the impeachment trial]," Pitt said.

Heading into the evening, Netflix — propelled by best picture nominees "Parasite Story" and "The Irishman" — outpaced all other studios and distributors with 24 nominations. The most disruptive force to hit the movie business since the advent of television, the streaming giant has leveraged its vast resources in recent years in an effort to win its first best picture Oscar. In the end, in what could be a sign of lingering resistance among Oscar voters to the company's streaming-centric business model, Netflix came away with just two wins, with its biggest contender, "The Irishman," coming up empty-handed despite 10 nominations.

For the second year in a row, the Oscars had no formal emcee, likely a result of both the coronavirus timetable for this year's show, which fell on the earliest date ever, and the growing sense among many poten-

tial hosts that what was once considered a plum job has become a largely thankless one. (Last year's planned host, comedian Kevin Hart, dropped out just days after being announced amid controversy over past homophobic jokes.)

In the absence of a traditional emcee, Janelle Monáe kicked off the show with an energetic musical performance featuring backup dancers clad in costumes from films like "Midsommar," "Jojo Rabbit" and "Joker," setting an upbeat, celebratory tone for the night that stood in stark contrast with the current unsettled, politically divisive climate. The rest of the ceremony leaned into the star power of presenters such as Kristen Wiig, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Lin-Manuel Miranda and musical performances by Billie Eilish, who sang the Beatles' "Yesterday" during the In Memoriam segment, and Elton John, who sang "I'm Gonna Love Me Again" from "Rocketman," which won in the song category. Most surprisingly (and somewhat confusingly), rapper Eminem made an unannounced appearance to perform his Oscar-winning song "Lose Yourself" from the 2002 film "8 Mile."

Taking the stage together to deliver a twist on the opening monologue, Steve Martin and Chris Rock, each a past Oscars emcee, acknowledged the apparent new normal of the host-less Oscars. "They don't really have hosts anymore. Why is that?" Martin asked. "Twitter," Rock answered.

WORLD

German leader's party in crisis as successor quits

By FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel's heir apparent unexpectedly threw in the towel Monday, plunging her conservative party into an even deeper crisis as it struggles to agree on its future political direction after losing votes to the far right.

Annegrät Kramp-Karrenbauer told leading members of the Christian Democratic Union, or CDU, that she won't be seeking the chancellorship in next year's general election, upending Merkel's plans to hand her the reins after more than 15 years in power.

The announcement follows days of in-fighting within the party over its handling last week of the election of a governor in the state of Thuringia. Regional party lawmakers there voted with the far-right Alternative for Germany party, or AfD, to oust the left-wing incumbent, defying appeals from Kramp-Karrenbauer and further undermining her leadership.

The vote in Thuringia broke what is widely regarded as a taboo in post-war German politics around cooperating with extremist parties.

"The AfD stands against everything we as the CDU represent," Kramp-Karrenbauer told reporters Monday in Berlin. "Any convergence with AfD weakens the CDU."

She likewise ruled out any cooperation with the Left party of former Thuringia governor Bodo Ramelow, who headed the former East German state from 2014 until last week. She will remain as Germany's defense minister.

Merkel has said she will not run for a fifth term in Germany's next general election, which is now scheduled for fall 2021. But any shift to the right in Merkel's party could trigger a breakup of her federal coalition with the center-left Social Democrats and increase the chances of an early national election.

Peter Altmaier, Germany's economy minister and a close Merkel ally, said the Christian Democrats were in "an unusually serious situation."

Recent polls had Merkel's conservative block at about 28% support nationally, followed by the left-leaning Greens at about 22%. The Social Democrats are struggling with only about 14% support, about the same as the far-right Alternative for Germany.

Irish election surprises as Sinn Féin gains most votes

By JILL LAWLESS
AND NICOLAË DUMITRACHE
Associated Press

DUBLIN — Ireland's political parties were scrambling to adjust to a new reality Monday, after an earth-shaking election that saw the left-wing nationalist party Sinn Féin win the biggest share of votes.

Sinn Féin, the party historically linked to the Irish Republican Army and its violent struggle for a united Ireland, received 24.5% of the first-preference votes in Saturday's election. That bested Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, the two centrist parties that have governed Ireland since it won independence from Britain.

Fianna Fáil received 22.2% of the votes and Fine Gael, the party of incumbent Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, got 20.9%.

Sinn Féin's left-wing proposals for tackling Ireland's housing crisis and creaking health care system proved a powerful draw for young voters in a country that is still dealing with aftershocks of

the 2008 global financial crisis.

Vote counting was resuming Monday to fill all the seats in the 160-Dáil, the lower house of Ireland's parliament. Ireland uses a proportional-representation system in which voters rank candidates from first to last, with the lower preferences of elected or defeated candidates redistributed among their rivals.

It's highly unlikely that any party will get the 80 seats needed for a majority in parliament. That makes some form of coalition inevitable, but forming a stable alliance looks tough.

Both Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael said before the election that they would not go into a coalition with Sinn Féin because of its links to past violence.

Varadkar said Fine Gael's stance was unchanged.

But as the scale of Sinn Féin's surge became clear, Fianna Fáil leader Michael Martin said: "I'm a democrat."

"I listen to the people. I respect the decision of the people," he told Irish broadcaster RTE.



JOEL CARRETT, AAP Image/AP

A resident inspects sea foam from waves approaching beachfront houses Monday after heavy rain and storms at Collaroy in Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Rain soaks parts of Australia, easing 3-year drought, wildfires

By NICK PERRY
Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Drought, wildfires and now flooding have given Australia's weather an almost Biblical feel this year. The good news is that a recent deluge in eastern parts of the country has drenched deadly fires and helped ease a crippling drought.

But experts say it will take some time yet to know to what extent the rainfall has replenished dried-up rivers and quenched parched soil in some inland areas most affected by the 3-year drought.

Quentin Grafton, an econom-

ics professor and water expert at Australian National University in Canberra, said the rain had broken the drought in some towns but had not fallen evenly across all the affected areas.

"At this stage, it's very good news, and certainly much more than people could have wished for or expected," he said of the rainfall. "There are some very happy people."

Grafton said the drought had badly affected an area of more than 580,000 square miles, which is larger than Ethiopia. He said monitoring on major rivers over the coming days should provide a clearer picture of how much the rain has helped.

Fire authorities had a reason to celebrate, with many wildfires being extinguished or significantly dampened down by the rain.

On Saturday, authorities declared the Currowan Fire south of Sydney was finally out after destroying more than 300 homes and razing 1.2 million acres over 2½ months.

"This is the most positive news we've had in some time," the New South Wales Rural Fire Service tweeted on Monday. "The recent rainfall has assisted firefighters to put over 30 fires out since Friday. Some of these blazes have been burning for weeks and even months."

Thai city mourns shooting victims

By EMILY SCHMALL
AND PREEYAPA T. KHUNSONG
Associated Press

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Thailand — Authorities in northern Thailand began releasing bodies to relatives Monday after security forces cornered and killed a soldier who carried out the country's worst mass shooting in an hours-long siege at a shopping mall.

The soldier killed 29 people starting with his commanding officer in a stunning tragedy that began Saturday and ended Sunday morning when security forces shot dead the heavily armed attacker in Terminal 21 Korat, an airport-themed mall in Nakhon Ratchasima.

The gunman, Sgt. Maj. Jakrapanth Thomma, 31, was infuriated at a land deal brokered by his commander's mother-in-law, as far as authorities have been able to determine. She was another of his victims.

Messages of sympathy for the latest tragedy were sent by several countries.

The U.S. Embassy said it "stands with the people of Thailand, saddened by tragic events in Nakhon Ratchasima."

More than 1,000 people mourned the victims Sunday night in a vigil led by Buddhist monks at the city's town square. They lit candles and chanted.

"We are here today to pray in order to send the souls of those who die to heaven, and we ask the spirits to accept those souls. So those souls can be holy, be in heaven with goodness and beauty," said artist Suwanee Natwong.

Many of the 58 wounded are still in bad condition. The Public Health Ministry sent a mental health crisis team to help relatives of the deceased cope with their losses.

Survivors and victims' families at the city's hospitals recounted

their ordeals.

Cpl. Korakot Ampanngeun said he had been ordered to block a road so no one could go toward the gunmen.

"So I was signaling to oncoming traffic when I turned around and saw him. If I had not, I would not have survived," he recalled. "I tried to run and find somewhere to hide. But I could only take two steps and then I heard the sound — 'bang.' My leg just went and I couldn't walk. A good Samaritan helped carry me away."

High school student Nachote Chotiklang said he was in his mother's car as she passed the gunman's vehicle.

The assailant "got out of the car and fired into the window. At that, I ducked down and didn't do anything until I felt that car hit something. It hit a tree."

When the teenager was asked what happened to his mother, Nachote shook his head. Another man explained that she had died.

WORLD

China virus cases continue rising

By JOE McDONALD
Associated Press

BEIJING — More offices and stores in Beijing and other parts of China finally reopened Monday after the Lunar New Year break was extended to discourage travel and contain the new coronavirus, but many workers and shoppers appeared to stay home.

Public health authorities are watching closely to see whether the return to business worsens the spread of the virus, which has infected more than 40,000 people globally and killed over 900, with the majority of cases in China.

Even before the slow and cautious reopening, China on Monday reported a rise in new cases, dimming optimism that the near-quarantine of some 60 million people and other disease-control measures might be working.

Britain, meanwhile, declared the virus a "serious and imminent threat to public health" and said it would forcibly detain infected people if necessary. France tested 45 children and their parents after five British tourists contracted the virus at a ski resort.

The director-general of the World Health Organization said

that the agency is still unable to predict where the outbreak is heading but that he believes there is still an opportunity to contain it.

"In recent days, we have seen some concerning instances of onward transmission from people with no travel history to China, like the cases reported in France yesterday and the U.K. today," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "The detection of the small number of cases could be the spark that becomes a bigger fire, but for now, it's only a spark."

Zhang Peng, who works for a livestreaming company in Beijing, went to the office Monday for the first time since the holiday, which was supposed to end on Jan. 30. The company checked employees for fever and handed out masks.

"I thought the situation is fairly good now," Zhang said. "I went to work by subway today and underwent various checks in the station. And my company did a good job of prevention and control."

There were few signs of activity on the streets of Beijing. The capital's broad avenues were largely free of traffic, and thousands of rental bikes stood in long

ranks with hardly a customer. Tourist attractions such as the Forbidden City remained closed, as did schools, and many people worked from home, hoping to avoid crowds.

Those shops and restaurants that did open found few customers.

At the Sunmuyuanli market in Beijing, the stalls were stocked with pork, mutton, seafood and vegetables and shoppers wore face masks.

"The number of customers here is down a lot, maybe by more than half," said Liu Ying, who sells walnuts, cashews and other specialties. "But you can see a lot of people calling in orders, so we're slowly getting busy again."

The mainland death toll rose by 97 to 908 in the 24 hours through midnight Sunday, and 3,062 new cases were reported, government authorities said. That was up 15% from Saturday and broke a string of daily declines that the government had said showed that containment measures were succeeding.

More than 440 cases have been confirmed outside mainland China, including two deaths in Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping, wearing a mask, visited a community health center in Beijing. He had his temperature taken and expressed thanks to the health workers on behalf of the Communist Party and government.

Japan said an additional 65 cases were found aboard a cruise ship quarantined in Yokohama, near Tokyo, raising the total to 135.

Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said the Japanese government was considering testing all 3,700 or so passengers and crew on the Diamond Princess, which would require them to remain aboard until results were available. Health authorities are scrambling to deliver medicine requested by more than 600 passengers.

Britain issued an "imminent threat" declaration after a British man who caught the virus in Singapore in January appeared linked to at least seven other confirmed cases in Europe. Five Britons, including a 9-year-old boy, contracted the virus in the French Alpine ski town of Contamines-Montjoie after staying in the same chalet as a British man.

Companies drop out of major Euro tech show

Associated Press

LONDON — Sony and Amazon are the latest companies to pull out of a major European technology show due to fears over the outbreak of the new coronavirus.

Sony said Monday that it's scrapping its appearance at Mobile World Congress, the world's biggest mobile industry trade fair, in Barcelona, Spain, this month.

"As we place the utmost importance on the safety and well-being of our customers, partners, media and employees, we have taken the difficult decision to withdraw from exhibiting and participating," Sony said in a statement.

GSMA, the show organizer, said Sunday that it's "moving ahead as planned" with the event, and outlined additional health and safety measures. They include banning visitors from China's Hubei province, where the outbreak originated, requiring people who have been in China to prove they left at least 14 days earlier, and carrying out temperature screening.

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OPINION

Congress, make election meddling illegal

By JEFFREY H. SMITH
AND JOHN B. BELLINGER III
Special to The Washington Post

The Senate, by a nearly straight party-line vote, has now acquired President Donald Trump of the charges in the articles of impeachment brought by the House. The president had insisted that his dealings with Ukraine over military aid and a possible investigation of Hunter Biden, the son of former Vice President Joe Biden, were "perfect." However, even as Republican senators acquitted him, several disagreed, saying his actions were wrong but did not break any law.

In response, the House impeachment managers argued that the constitutional grounds "high Crimes and Misdemeanors" for impeachment distinguished the violation of a specific federal criminal statute.

Whether one views the president's actions as justifying removal from office or not, we believe that the prospect of foreign interference in U.S. elections is today so grave — whether initiated by a foreign power or by a domestic actor — that Congress must make such activity illegal.

Doing so would be consistent with history. For example, after the Vietnam War and President Richard Nixon's resignation over Watergate, Congress enacted a series of laws to rein in executive power. These included the establishment of intelligence oversight committees in Congress, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, the War Powers Resolution, and the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act (which the Government Accountability Office concluded Trump had violated).

Former special counsel Robert Mueller

looked exhaustively at whether the Trump campaign had colluded with the Russian government to win the 2016 election. Mueller found that the Russians had interfered in the election in a "sweeping and systematic fashion," and he indicted 26 Russian nationals, including 12 intelligence officers, for conspiracy and hacking into U.S. computers. After he found that the Trump campaign had welcomed Russian interference, Mueller could not establish that the campaign had conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in a manner that violated the law. Current law prohibits candidates from accepting money from foreign sources, but it is not clear on nonfinancial assistance.

The Mueller investigation showed that it is now time to close that gap. Congress should promptly adopt a criminal statute prohibiting any candidate for federal office, including the president, from soliciting or knowingly accepting material assistance from a foreign power that could influence an election.

Drafting such a statute would not be easy. There are many constitutional and policy interests that must be balanced. For example, foreign assistance is often a key issue in presidential campaigns, and candidates can be tempted to put a finger on the scale by inviting foreign influence. Narrowing the prohibition to soliciting or knowingly accepting "material assistance" helps, as courts have had experience interpreting the phrase "material assistance" in the context of terrorist groups. Still, where is the line between appropriate and illegal?

Rumors of dark activity in presidential campaigns have swirled for years. For example, in 1968 the Nixon campaign secretly told President Nguyen Van Thieu of

South Vietnam that if he withdrew from peace talks then under way with the Viet Cong, he would get stronger support in the war if Nixon won the presidency. Historians have argued over the consequences of this effort and whether Nixon knew about it. But Thieu did withdraw from the negotiations, and Nixon was elected.

On the other hand, in October 1992, James Baker III, who had stepped down as secretary of state to serve as chief of staff to President George H.W. Bush, rejected a request to the president by several members of Congress to seek the help of Russia and Britain to dig up dirt on Democratic candidate Bill Clinton. Baker told the congressmen "we absolutely could not do that" and wrote a memorandum for the record. Baker didn't need a statute to know what was right and what was wrong.

The country can't rely on all government officials to possess that sort of integrity, so Congress must act now. Congressional Republicans have been willing to impose sanctions on Russia for interfering in the 2016 election, and, more recently, some have voted to limit the president's authority to start a conflict with Iran. We hope that Republicans — even if they voted against impeachment or conviction of the president — will similarly understand why a carefully crafted statute prohibiting solicitation or knowing acceptance of foreign interference in U.S. elections is necessary, and that the president will sign it into law.

Jeffrey H. Smith, a senior counsel at Arnold & Porter, served as general counsel of the CIA (1995-96). John B. Bellinger III, a partner with Arnold & Porter and adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, served as legal adviser for the National Security Council (2001-05) and for the State Department (2005-09).

Buttigieg's Goldilocks strategy just might work

By DOYLE MCMAUS
Los Angeles Times

Not long ago, Pete Buttigieg was unknown outside of South Bend, the fourth-largest city in Indiana, a state so red it voted for Democratic presidents only twice since 1940.

But as he heads into the New Hampshire primary on Tuesday, the former mayor is a surprisingly good bet to win the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

He's gotten this far mostly on the raw potential — without the rays of experience, deep bases of support or fundraising networks some of his rivals enjoy.

Yes, he's given eloquent speeches and assembled, at 38, a gold-plated résumé (Harvard, Rhodes scholar, naval intelligence officer in Afghanistan, management consultant). But his risen mostly because of a political judgment that led him to seize what appears a sweet spot on the Democrats' political spectrum.

He's cast himself as the Goldilocks candidate: younger and more progressive than Joe Biden or Amy Klobuchar, but more moderate and less combative than Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren. "You don't have to choose between the status quo ... and the revolution," he said recently.

Much of his stump speech is a call for "generational change," an attempt to turn his youth and earnest Eagle Scout demeanor into an advantage. First-time listeners often come away impressed, although if you've heard him more than once, the pitch can also sound bland and generic.

But Buttigieg's policies are more interesting than he makes them sound. Most fall midway between Biden's nostalgic liberalism and Sanders' calls for a "political revolution."

His most distinctive position is on health care, where he rejects Sanders' "Medicare for all" proposal, which would eliminate private medical insurance for a government-run system, a step many voters aren't ready to embrace. Buttigieg's alternative, which he calls "Medicare for all who want it," would still mandate universal coverage but allow people to choose either government-run insurance or a private plan. Polls show most Democrats like both ideas.

But the Buttigieg version is far more popular among the independents and Republicans who will vote in a general election. His clarity on health care is probably the main reason he has risen so fast, especially compared with Warren, who stumbled on the issue when she initially backed the Sanders proposal and then appeared to back away, angering both sides.

In a similar Goldilocks vein, Buttigieg would raise taxes on the wealthy — not as much as Sanders or Warren, but more than Biden. He would raise the top trust and billionaires for their wealth; he raises money from them and doesn't apologize for it, saying Democrats need all the help they can get to beat President Donald Trump.

A study by Americans for Tax Fairness, a liberal group, found that Sanders' proposals (including Medicare for all) would raise federal spending by about \$50 trillion over 10 years. Buttigieg's would raise spending by about \$8 trillion, and Biden's would raise spending by about \$3 trillion.

Buttigieg says he would mandate free tuition at public colleges for most students, but not for children of wealthy parents. Sanders and Warren would make college tuition-free for all.

Buttigieg's rivals complain — accurately — that his views have shifted. In 2018, as he was preparing to run, he said he favored "Medicare for all." In early 2019, amid a wave of progressive sentiment, he joined in

calls to decriminalize illegal border crossings. He walked back from both positions as his campaign moved toward the center.

Buttigieg effectively tied with Sanders in the chaotic Iowa caucuses last week. But he ran well ahead among voters who call themselves "somewhat liberal," the party's largest ideological category.

For all that, he has vulnerabilities, and they will be tested in the months ahead. He is the first openly gay candidate to run for president, and no one knows if that will prove a liability. He has been notably weak in polls of African American voters, who are a crucial Democratic base in South Carolina and other Southern states. In Friday night's debate in New Hampshire, he didn't offer a convincing explanation for statistics showing disproportionate arrests of black men in South Bend during the eight years he was mayor.

His claim to electability won't be convincing unless he begins winning by big margins in the caucus states, while he often points out that he has more military and governing experience than Trump did in 2016, if Buttigieg gets the nomination, the president will have a field day mocking the former small-city mayor.

The immediate question is whether either Buttigieg or Sanders, the top two finishers in Iowa, can expand his appeal and lead the lead. And can either of them beat Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire former mayor of New York, who has spent more than \$200 million of his own money, and vows to spend much more, in states that will vote on Super Tuesday, March 3?

If Buttigieg, Sanders and Bloomberg lead the field a month from now, Democrats will definitely have a clear choice. And the Goldilocks candidate might just win.

Doyle McMaus is a Washington columnist for the Los Angeles Times and director of the journalism program at Georgetown University.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

A RECORD 328 DAYS IN SPACE



BECAUSE TWO X CHROMOSOMES ARE EXACTLY "THE RIGHT STUFF"

TIM CAMPBELL/Washington Post News Service

The Democratic Plan to Get Rid of Trump



JEFF DANZIGER/Washington Post News Service

The Chinese Medical Authority, Dr. Xi Jinping, Explains the Coronavirus Problem

NOTHING TO SEE HERE, FOLKS.

AND IF THERE IS IT IS ALL THE FAULT OF THE AMERICANS.



DANZIGER The Rutland Herald Feb 3 2020 (9696)

JEFF DANZIGER/Washington Post News Service

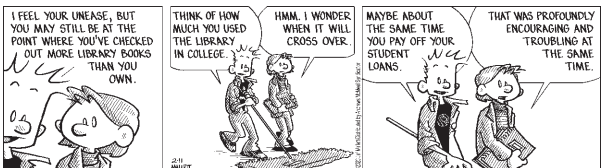


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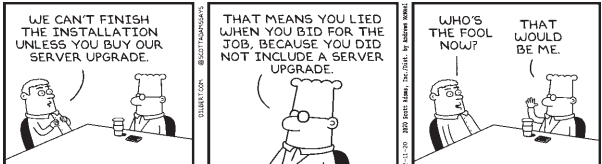


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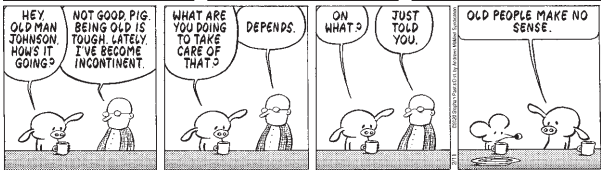
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



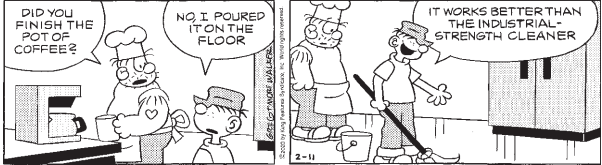
Candorville



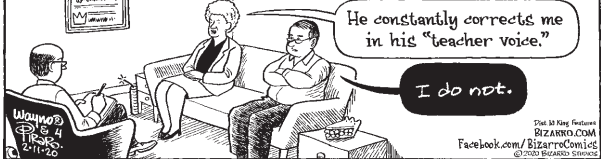
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
				18				19	20			
21	22	23					24					
25					26				27	28	29	
30					31				32			
33			34						35			
					36				37			
38	39	40						41				
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

ACROSS

- Group of actors
- "The X-Files" org.
- Crib cry
- Regarding
- Cyclades island
- Exam format
- Quail's cousin
- Croupier's tool
- Drunkard
- Chapeau holder
- Like some goals
- Rum cake
- With skill
- Peevish
- Extinct New Zealand bird
- Braid of hair
- Scott's denial
- Fondness for
- "Mad Money" network
- Reply to "Shall we?"
- Audacious
- Eccentric
- Menagerie
- Location
- Nice
- Will of "The Waltons"
- Ms. Thurman
- 50 Party cheese
- Piercing tools
- NBC weekend show
- Harvard rival

DOWN

- Tube top
- Bat wood
- Sault — Marie
- Warm and cozy
- Edict
- "— voyage!" or Cal
- "Are we done here?"
- Human
- Speedy steed
- Shark variety
- TV's Trebek
- Tofu source
- Border on
- Genie's home
- Reed
- instrument
- Custard recipe
- Hot dog side dish
- Duck-billed critter
- "Blessings" author Quindlen
- Apprehends
- Georgia
- "That was close!"
- Exonerates
- Partner of Stills and Nash
- Large snake
- Long tale
- Ship's staff
- Stagger
- Gusto
- Run after K
- Palindromic constellation
- Zilch
- Golf prop

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	C	E	P	E	R	M	S	L	O	B
I	S	M	O	R	B	I	T	E	R	A
L	I	S	T	P	R	I	C	E	M	E
		E	P	A	R	E	B	O	O	T
B	A	L	L	E	T	O	R	A	N	
O	R	E	D	I	P	S	U	P	E	R
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M	A	A	L	A	N	P	A	R	T	Y
A	D	D	A	L	I	C	E	E	A	R
X	E	S	S	T	E	E	D		V	P

2-11

CRYPTOQUIP

PYSE PUQIB NUQ VSII GUKO
SHVAOHE XOMKSHAV ZOUZIO
PYU POMO ESII SHB GESEGIN?

EYO XMSHB EOQUEUH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY ON THE PACIFIC COAST WHERE YOU WILL ENCOUNTER LOTS OF APES: SAN SIMIAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals W

NHL

Scorer: Caps' Ovechkin continues to climb all-time ladder

FROM BACK PAGE

"He just can score from anywhere," Calgary defenseman Mark Giordano said. "You sort of think teams would come up with a game plan to stop him, but you can't."

No game plan has worked. Like the cutter flustered batters knew was coming from New York Yankees closer Mariano Rivera, Ovechkin comes at goaltenders and defensemen with the same relentless, masterful approach — and the numbers keep climbing.

Ovechkin has never scored fewer than 32 goals in a season, and his 11 seasons of 40 or more trails only Wayne Gretzky for the most in league history. He has averaged 0.5 goal every playoff game, 10th-best all time, and contributed to winning the Stanley Cup and postseason MVP honors in 2018.

A dozen goaltenders and defenders who have tried to contain Ovechkin described the task to The Associated Press as his milestone approached.

Opportunity knocks: "Whatever small inch you give him, he's going to find a way to throw it through your legs from the blue line top cheese and you're like, 'What the heck just happened?'" said Colorado forward Pierre-Edouard Bellemare, who faced Ovechkin in the 2018 final with Vegas. "Maybe you're thinking your goalie should have it and you look at the replay like, 'OK, that was a heck of a shot.' ... It's just that at any time in a game he can have an off night and out of nowhere, boom, he can have a hat trick."

Bellemare made that observation just days before Ovechkin had no shots with six minutes left against Los Angeles. He then scored once to tie it, a second time to give Washington the lead and a third into an empty net to seal another win. Those were goal Nos. 696, 697 and 698.

Prolific sniper: Ovechkin's job from day one has been to shoot the puck as much as possible. He has an NHL-best 5,483 shots since 2005-06. No other player has 4,000. Ovechkin's stick, an open blade with a big curve at the toe — and how he releases a shot also puts him in a class of his own.

"His puck flies not straight," said Tampa Bay Lightning goalie Andrei Vasilevsky, who has allowed nine goals to Ovechkin. "It's kind of chaotic, changing direction every time, so it's pretty hard to stop for a goalie. It's like (a) knuckleball."

A knucklepuck with a 6-foot-3, 235-pound linebacker's strength behind it. It's not just Ovechkin's release but how the puck feels when it gets on net.

"His shot is absolutely a rocket or missile," said Toronto Maple Leafs goalie Frederik Andersen, who has given up six of Ovechkin's goals. "He shoots from anywhere and he shoots it hard and heavy."

Lefty speed: Ovechkin has made a living — roughly \$11.3 million so far with another contract



PHOTOS BY NICK WASS/AP

Top: Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin has used a relentless, masterful approach — and a sizzling slapshot — to terrify goaltenders and defensemen for 15 seasons, winning the Stanley Cup and postseason MVP honors in 2018 along the way. **Above:** Ovechkin skates into the spotlight before a game against the Pittsburgh Penguins earlier this month in Washington. Ovechkin entered Monday night's game against the New York Islanders just two goals away from milestone number 700.

expected to start in 2021-22 — by not only making goalies but the league's best defensive defensemen miss. Norris Trophy winner Drew Doughty believes the only way to slow Ovechkin down is to get in his face in the neutral zone before he can pick up steam.

Problem is, even at 34 and past the prime of most scorers, Ovechkin still has the lower-body strength and footspeed to glide around opponents like they're pylons.

"He still has that ability from when he was younger to beat you one-on-one, so you can't just play the shot or you can't just back off," said Avalanche defenseman Ian Cole, who battled Ovechkin for years as a member of the Pittsburgh Penguins. "You're in a bit of a quagmire when you're playing against him just because there's so many ways that he can beat you and he is so good, he's so good at cutting to the middle, too, on his off side and letting these

pucks go through traffic."

Location, location, location: There is no safe area when it comes to defending Ovechkin. "He can make moves and shoot from anywhere and it can go in," Kings forward Trevor Lewis said. "Most guys, if you keep them to the outside and they're shooting, they're not going to bury it every time. But it seems like every shot he takes, it's got a chance to go in."

Connor Hellebuyck vividly re-

members his first encounter with Ovechkin as a rookie. The Winnipeg goaltender felt like the scene played out in slow motion before the puck barely stayed out, but he allowed two goals to Ovechkin in a game a couple of years later.

"He came down and ripped what looked like a little snap shot from the top of the circle," Hellebuyck recalled. "It came off so heavy and I got such a good beat on it, but I was able to watch it completely pass me and I missed it."

Ovi's office: It's the elephant in the room. Everyone knows, at some point, Ovechkin will rifle a blazing one-timer from the left faceoff circle on the power play. It is telegraphed almost every time, and yet it has proven to be one of the most potent shots in the history of the sport.

"It's sometimes hard to get it by a shotblocker but sometimes it's easy," Doughty said. "And he's going to be able to get it by one way or the other. You just have to be on the same page as your goalie to be able to make the save or make the block. We all know it's coming, but that shot's so good."

Ovechkin on the power play is such an institution that teammates told Bellemare when he entered the league not to try to chase him on the penalty kill and look like a fool. Bellemare is in awe of how much opponents can focus on him and still end up watching him celebrate another goal.

"We watch video, we study, but still, it keeps happening," he said. "This is what it is. Everybody's trying to play their best game when we meet that guy, and still he finds a way to go through you. This is what is unbelievable."

NHL/COLLEGE BASKETBALL



PAUL SANCTA/AP

Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask, left, stops the Red Wings' Adam Erne, center, in the second period on Sunday.

NHL roundup

NHL-worst Wings top Bruins for second time

Associated Press

DETROIT — The NHL's worst team beat the best.

Again. Andreas Athanasiou snapped a tie midway through the third period and scored an empty-net goal in the final minute, lifting the Detroit Red Wings to a 3-1 win over the Boston Bruins on Sunday.

"When we're playing good hockey and we get good goaltending, we're going to give anybody a hard challenge," Detroit coach Jeff Blashill said. "That's just the way the NHL is. The parity's at an all-time high."

The Red Wings (14-39-4) are looking up at the rest of the NHL in the standings, but the rebuilding team has defeated the league-leading Bruins (34-11-2) in both of their games this season.

"It seems like they get excited to play us," said Torey Krug, who scored Boston's only goal. "For whatever reason, it's a tough matchup for us."

The Celtics had won six straight until Detroit stopped the streak with its second win in three games.

Rangers 4, Kings 1: Artemi Panarin, Kaapo Kakko and Greg McKegg scored, powering host New York to its fourth win in its past six games.

Igor Shesterkin made 42 saves for his fifth win in six starts.

Ducks 3, Sabres 2: Ryan Miller stopped 31 shots, including all 15 he faced in the third period, and visiting Anaheim held off Buffalo. Jakob Silfverberg, Ryan Getzlaf and Nick Ritchie scored in a 5:45 span in the first period to stake the Ducks to a 3-0 lead, and they closed out a 3-0-2 road trip.

Jets 5, Blackhawks 2: Andrew Copp had the go-ahead score in host Winnipeg's four-goal third period, and the Jets rallied to beat Chicago for their third straight win.

Kyle Connor had a pair of goals, along with Blake Wheeler and Patrick Laine also scored for Winnipeg, which trailed 2-0 after 20 minutes.

Avalanche 3, Wild 2: Nathan MacKinnon scored his 32nd goal of the season, Pavel Francouz made 34 saves and Colorado ended its road trip with four wins in five games.

Pierre-Edouard Bellemare and Gabriel Landeskog also scored for the Aves, who have won seven of the past eight games and are second in the league behind Washington with 18 road wins.

Jared Spurgeon and Kevin Piala scored for Minnesota, which lost for the first time in four games. Devan Dubnyk stopped 30 shots in his second straight start.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Eastern Conference									
Atlantic Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Boston	57	34	11	12	80	188	143		
Tampa Bay	55	35	15	5	75	199	150		
Toronto	56	29	19	8	66	200	187		
Florida	54	29	19	6	64	192	181		
Montreal	55	23	23	9	55	177	173		
Buffalo	56	24	24	8	56	159	176		
Ottawa	55	18	26	11	47	147	188		
Detroit	57	14	39	4	32	118	213		
Metropolitan Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Washington	55	36	14	5	77	199	167		
Pittsburgh	56	30	17	9	69	147	137		
Columbus	56	30	17	9	69	147	137		
N.Y. Islanders	53	31	16	6	68	156	145		
Carolina	55	32	20	3	67	180	153		
Philadelphia	55	32	18	7	67	177	164		
N.Y. Rangers	54	27	23	4	58	177	173		
New Jersey	54	20	24	10	50	149	190		

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	55	36	14	5	77	199
Pittsburgh	54	24	15	5	73	181
Columbus	56	30	17	9	69	147
N.Y. Islanders	55	31	16	6	68	156
Carolina	55	32	20	3	67	180
Philadelphia	55	32	18	7	67	177
N.Y. Rangers	54	20	24	5	50	149

Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L
St. Louis	54	32	16	5	70	197	154		
Colorado	55	32	15	9	73	198	160		
Dallas	54	31	19	5	67	147	141		
Winnipeg	57	29	23	5	63	173	172		
Nashville	54	26	21	7	59	176	181		
Minnesota	55	26	23	6	58	169	181		
Chicago	55	25	23	8	58	163	173		

Pacific Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L
Vancouver	56	30	21	5	65	181	173		
Edmonton	55	32	20	6	64	176	173		
Vegas	57	28	21	8	64	182	174		
Calgary	56	28	22	9	62	157	171		
Arizona	57	27	23	5	60	160	157		
Anaheim	56	23	26	7	53	146	173		
San Jose	55	24	27	4	52	145	181		
Los Angeles	57	19	33	5	43	137	183		

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild card per conference advance to playoffs.

Sunday's games									
Edmonton	at	St. Louis	at	San Jose	at	Los Angeles	at	San Jose	at
Anaheim	at	Buffalo	at	St. Louis	at	Los Angeles	at	San Jose	at
Winnipeg	at	Chicago	at	St. Louis	at	Los Angeles	at	San Jose	at

Monday's games									
Arizona	at	Montreal	at	Florida	at	Philadelphia	at	Washington	at
N.Y. Islanders	at	Washington	at	Tampa Bay	at	Pittsburgh	at	Philadelphia	at
Nashville	at	Vancouver	at	San Jose	at	Los Angeles	at	San Jose	at

Tuesday's games									
Florida	at	Buffalo	at	Philadelphia	at	Washington	at	Tampa Bay	at
N.Y. Islanders	at	Washington	at	Tampa Bay	at	Pittsburgh	at	Philadelphia	at
Nashville	at	Vancouver	at	San Jose	at	Los Angeles	at	San Jose	at

Wednesday's games									
Florida	at	Buffalo	at	Philadelphia	at	Washington	at	Tampa Bay	at
N.Y. Islanders	at	Washington	at	Tampa Bay	at	Pittsburgh	at	Philadelphia	at
Nashville	at	Vancouver	at	San Jose	at	Los Angeles	at	San Jose	at

Thursday's games									
Florida	at	Buffalo	at	Philadelphia	at	Washington	at	Tampa Bay	at
N.Y. Islanders	at	Washington	at	Tampa Bay	at	Pittsburgh	at	Philadelphia	at
Nashville	at	Vancouver	at	San Jose	at	Los Angeles	at	San Jose	at

Bubble watch

Purdue positioned for push

BY AARON BEARD

Associated Press

Purdue is positioned to chase down an NCAA Tournament bid, thanks in part to the Big Ten's depth of quality teams.

The Boilermakers had 10 losses by the end of January and are one game better than .500 in conference play. Yet they are ranked No. 26 in the NCAA's NET rankings as of Sunday and play in KenPom's top-rated league, which ranks well ahead of the Big 12 and Big East conferences.

That means Purdue will have plenty of chances to keep bolstering its resumé, even with relatively little room for error through its final seven regular-season games.

"We're going to keep getting tough matchups," junior center Matt Haarms said after Saturday's win at Indiana. "Every game in the Big Ten is a tough one, (we) continue to play tournament-caliber teams, and we want to show that we belong in the tournament."

After getting within a game of last year's Final Four, Matt Painter's Boilermakers lost nonconference games to Texas, Marquette, now-No. 8 Florida State and now-No. 19 Butler before Christmas. Then they stumbled to five league losses in seven games in January to stand at 11-10.

But Purdue (14-10, 7-6) has three games straight, including Wednesday's home rout of No. 17 Iowa followed by Saturday's win at Indiana. Both are Quadram 1 wins that top an NCAA Tournament resumé, joining a 29-point win against preseason No. 1-ranked Michigan State in mid-January and a November neutral-court win against VCU.

Overall, Purdue is 4-7 against opponents in Quadram 1, defined as home games against top-30 teams in the NET, neutral-site games against top-50 teams and road games against top-75 teams. The Boilermakers also have a 29-point win against reigning national champion Virginia for a Quadram 2 victory, while a December loss at Nebraska is their only Quadram 3 loss.

As of midday Sunday, Purdue was headed for No. 10 seed in BracketMatrix.com's average of 89 tournament projections.

There are still five Quadram 1 games ahead, including Tuesday at home against No. 22 Penn State (No. 19 in NET), Saturday at Ohio State (17th) and a road rematch with the Hawkeyes (28th) on March 3. A season finish could get the Boilermakers comfortably clear of the bubble by Selection Sunday, which is five weeks away.

Rising

Arizona State: The Sun Devils (15-8, 6-4 Pac-12) have won five of six, including Quadram 1 wins against Arizona and Washington.

Oklahoma: The Sooners (15-8, 5-5 Big 12) have been up and down, though Saturday's win against No. 13 West Virginia is their third — and best — Quadram 1 win.

Rhode Island: The Rams (18-5, 10-1 Atlantic 10) are surging.

Top 25 roundup

Marquette trounces No. 19 Butler

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — No. 19 Butler contained Markus Howard, the nation's leading scorer, but Marquette's supporting cast answered the challenge.

Howard, who entered averaging 27.9 points, scored 17 and Bryant Bailey and Kyle McClenahan added 16 pieces to lead the Golden Eagles to a 76-57 victory over the Bulldogs on Sunday.

"They're a tough assignment in general," Butler coach LaVall Jordan said. "Obviously you start with Markus Howard, so how much attention do you want to give him in terms of helping, allow him to just play and keep the other guys contained? I thought we did a job on him. Recoveries to some of the shooters were slow."



DOUG MCGOWEN/AP

Purdue center Matt Haarms, left, reacts with teammates after Indiana during the second half on Saturday. Purdue won 74-62.

ing, winning 10 straight to go from 91st in the NET as of Jan. 6 to No. 35 as of Sunday. There are two big games ahead against sixth-ranked Dayton, the first coming Tuesday.

Wisconsin: The Badgers (14-10, 7-6 Big Ten) are in a similar position to league-mate Purdue, though their win Sunday against Ohio State improved them to 7-7 against Quadram 1 teams after entering the day at No. 37 in the NET.

Sliding

Cincinnati: The record looks good for the Bearcats (15-8, 8-3 American Athletic Conference), but Sunday's loss at Connecticut dropped them to 1-5 against Quadram 1 teams with three Quadram 3 losses (Colgate, Bowling Green and Tulane) to sit at 46th in the NET. They also have just one Quadram 1 opponent remaining (at No. 25 Houston on March 1).

Florida: The Gators (14-9, 6-4 Southeastern Conference) are going in the wrong direction. Ranked sixth in the season AP Top 25, Florida has lost four of six with Saturday's loss at Mississippi.

Memphis: The Tigers (17-6, 6-4 American Athletic Conference) suffered a Quadram 3 loss to South Florida at home Saturday, dropping them 13 spots to 60th in the NET. Memphis has one Quadram 1 win and recently lost No. 2 scorer D.J. Jeffries for four to six weeks to a knee injury.

N.C. State: The Wolfpack (15-8, 6-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) ended up on the wrong side of the bubble last year and could do it again. A recent three-game skid included a Quadram 3 home loss to struggling rival North Carolina, though games with No. 7 Duke (twice) and No. 8 Florida State offer chances to improve a No. 62 NET ranking.

Marquette (17-6, 7-4 Big East) put the game away when McClenahan hit back-to-back three-pointers and Bailey followed with another to give the Golden Eagles a 62-45 lead with 6:09 remaining.

No. 25 Houston 76, Wichita State 43: Quentin Grimes had 14 points and six rebounds, DeJon Jarreau added 12 points and seven rebounds and the host Cougars beat the Shockers.

Marcus Sasser and Caleb Mills each scored 11 points for Houston (19-5, 9-2 American Athletic Conference), which has won seven of eight and took over sole possession of first place in the American Athletic Conference. Dexter Dennis had 10 points and six rebounds for Wichita State (17-6, 5-5), which has lost three straight.

NBA

Celtics slip past Thunder for 7th consecutive win

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Their lead mostly gone, the Boston Celtics needed someone to make a stop in the final seconds.

As usual, Marcus Smart took it upon himself.

Smart stole the ball from Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander with 5.8 seconds left, helping the Celtics hold on for a 112-111 victory over the Thunder on Sunday.

"I didn't even want to give them an attempt to even get a shot up and a chance to tie the game or come close to it," Smart said.

Kemba Walker scored 27 points and Jayson Tatum had 26 for the Celtics, who won their seventh straight.

"Good, tough teams," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "A lot of smart basketball and then we almost gave it away at the end. But,

you know, up to that point I think we played really hard and really well."

Jaylen Brown finished with 17 points for the Celtics, who made 16 three-pointers. One of them, by Smart with 8:19 remaining, gave Boston the lead for good.

Danilo Gallinari and Gilgeous-Alexander each had 24 points for the Thunder, while point guards Chris Paul and Dennis Schroder finished with 22 apiece. Oklahoma City had its four-game winning streak snapped.

"I thought our guys really, really competed and played," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "We weren't able to finish well enough in some crucial situations."

Oklahoma City led 61-52 at halftime but Tatum heated up in the third quarter. His three-pointer made it 70-68 with 7:38 left in the period.



KYLE PHILLIPS/AP

Celtics forward Jayson Tatum scores past Thunder center Steven Adams in Boston's 112-111 win on Sunday in Oklahoma City. Tatum finished with 26 points.

"I thought they were the aggressor in the last 14 minutes of the first half," Stevens said. "And then we were great out of the gate in the second and then it went back and forth."

Boston led 109-101 after Walk-

er made his second straight three-pointer, but Oklahoma City battled back and had a chance to tie after Schroder blocked Gordon Hayward's layup. But Smart stripped Gilgeous-Alexander before he had a chance to take what

would have been a game-tying three-pointer.

"It took a lot of grit," Tatum said. "They are a really good team. They are tough and they compete, so we just had to match their intensity."

Roundup

Bogdanovic's buzzer-beating trey lifts Jazz

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Bojan Bogdanovic made a three-point shot in time expired to give the Utah Jazz a 114-113 victory over the Houston Rockets on Sunday.

Jordan Clarkson scored 30 points and Donovan Mitchell finished with 24 points, six assists and five rebounds for the Jazz, who won their second straight after a five-game losing streak.

They needed to come back after P.J. Tucker's three-pointer from the corner gave the Rockets a two-point lead with 1.6 seconds remaining. After a timeout, Bogdanovic came off a screen and hit a contested 29-footer to give Utah the win.

Mike Conley added 20 points, six assists and five rebounds for the Jazz. Rudy Gobert had 12 points and 15 rebounds. Utah shot 49%, including 15-for-38 on three-pointers.

Russell Westbrook had 39 points for Houston. James Harden added 28 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

Clippers 133, Cavaliers 92: Lou Williams scored 25 points and Los Angeles handed the Cavaliers their worst home loss in franchise history.

The Cavaliers' previous worst was a 39-point loss to Chicago in 2012.

Paul George had 22 points and Marcus Morris added 11 in his first game with the Clippers, who led wire-to-wire without star forward Kawhi Leonard.

Andre Drummond started in his first game with Cleveland after being acquired from Detroit at the deadline. He scored 19 points and had 14 rebounds in 29 minutes.

76ers 118, Bulls 111: Furkan Korkmaz scored 31 points. Joel Embiid had 28 points and 12 rebounds and held Philadelphia beat Chicago to improve its NBA-best home record



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

Utah Jazz forward Bojan Bogdanovic, right, celebrates his game-winning three-point shot with teammate Joe Ingles on Sunday.

to 24-2.

Ben Simmons added 19 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for the 76ers.

Korkmaz stayed hot after netting a career-high 34 points in Friday's 119-107 home win over Memphis. He made 12-of-17 field goals, going 6-for-11 on three-pointers.

Zach LaVine scored 32 points and Luke Kornet added 25 for the short-handed Bulls, who have lost five straight.

Grizzlies 106, Wizards 99: Ja Morant had 18 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his first career triple-double to help Memphis overcome poor three-point shooting and win at Washington.

Morant scored 10 points in the fourth quarter for the Grizzlies, who closed the game on a 22-8 run after trailing for most of the second half.

Kyle Anderson added 16 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 14 for Memphis, which won despite shooting 5-for-32 from beyond the arc. Jonas Valanciunas had 18 rebounds.

Bradley Beal scored 26 points for the Wizards, who led by as many as 12 points early but shot 4-for-26 in the fourth quarter.

Hawks 140, Knicks 135 (2 OT): Trae Young had 48 points and 13 assists, John Collins added 32 points and 16 rebounds, and host Atlanta beat New York in two overtimes.

It was the ninth time Young has scored at least 40, second-most in the NBA this season. The first-time All-Star hit all 16 of his free-throw attempts and knocked down a game-high six three-pointers.

Julius Randle finished with 35 points and 18 rebounds, and Reggie Bullock scored 21 points for the Knicks, who had their four-game winning streak snapped. Playing a third game in four nights, New York dropped to 17-37 after trailing by 16 in the fourth. They led by eight in the first overtime before letting the Hawks back in it.

Trail Blazers 115, Heat 109: Damian Lillard had 33 points and eight assists, Gary Trent Jr. scored 22 points and host Portland beat Miami in Andre Iguodala's debut with the Heat.

Iguodala had two points in his first game since the NBA Finals.

Hassan Whiteside had 11 points and 17 rebounds against his former team, including a pair of free throws with 11.5 seconds left that gave Portland a seven-point lead.

Goran Dragic had 27 points for Miami, which played without Jimmy Butler and Tyler Herro.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	39	14	.736	—
Boston	37	15	.712	1½
Philadelphia	33	21	.611	6½
Brooklyn	23	28	.451	15
New York	17	37	.315	22½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	24	18	.554	—
Orlando	22	21	.515	12½
Washington	18	31	.353	15½
Charlotte	16	36	.308	18
Atlanta	15	39	.278	20
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	45	7	.865	—
Indiana	31	22	.585	14½
Chicago	29	25	.532	27
Detroit	18	36	.345	27½
Cleveland	13	40	.245	32½

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	33	20	.623	—
Dallas	32	21	.604	1
Memphis	26	29	.470	6
San Antonio	22	30	.423	10½
New Orleans	22	31	.415	11
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	37	16	.698	—
Utah	34	18	.654	2½
Oklahoma City	32	21	.604	5
Portland	26	29	.463	12½
Minnesota	16	35	.314	20
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	39	12	.765	—
L.A. Clippers	37	16	.698	1
Sacramento	21	31	.404	18½
Phoenix	27	32	.396	19
Golden State	12	38	.236	28

Saturday's games

Dallas 116, Charlotte 109	
New York 95, Detroit 92	
Toronto 113, Brooklyn 118	
New Orleans 124, Indiana 117	
Minnesota 142, L.A. Clippers 115	
L.A. Lakers 125, Golden State 102	
Denver 117, Phoenix 108	
Sacramento 122, San Antonio 102	

Sunday's games

Boston 112, Oklahoma City 111	
Philadelphia 118, Chicago 111	
Memphis 106, Washington 99	
Atlanta 140, New York 135, 2OT	
Utah 114, Houston 113	
L.A. Clippers 133, Cleveland 92	
Portland 115, Miami 109	

Monday's games

Atlanta at Orlando	
Brooklyn at Indiana	
Charlotte at Detroit	
Minnesota at Toronto	
Sacramento at Milwaukee	
Utah at Dallas	
San Antonio at Denver	
Miami at Golden State	
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers	

NBA/MLB

Feeling the love

Well-traveled Russell may have finally found his match with Minnesota

By Dave Campbell
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS

Not yet finished with his fifth NBA season, D'Angelo Russell has landed with his fourth team.

Karl-Anthony Towns and the Minnesota Timberwolves sure don't want him to leave.

"It's surreal to really think that instead of us just talking on the phone or playing video games with each other and talking about how our teams are doing and everything, but now we're getting to do this every day with each other," Towns said.

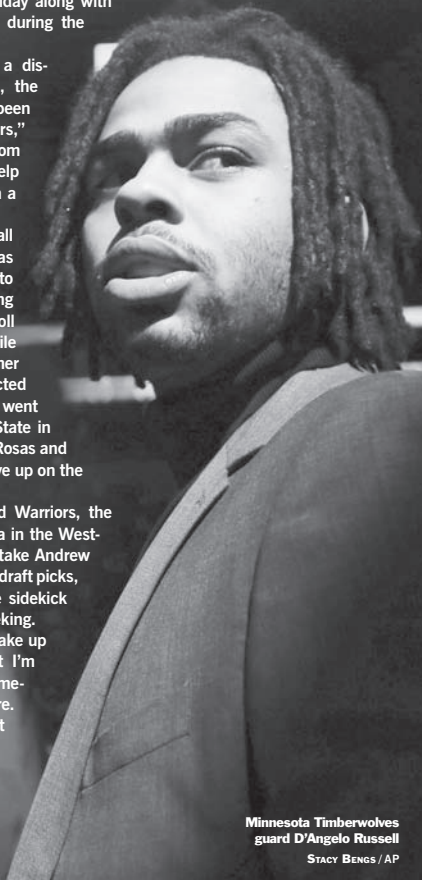
Russell was introduced at an open-to-the-public news conference Friday along with six other players acquired during the trading spree this week.

"I've been seeing from a distance, and from close-up, the ship that Karl's kind of been driving around here for years," Russell said. "Watching from a distance I knew I could help Karl. I've never played with a dynamic big just like him."

President of basketball operations Gersson Rosas made his first attempt to pair the smooth-shooting Russell as a pick-and-roll machine with the versatile 6-foot-11 Towns last summer when Russell was a restricted free agent. Russell instead went from Brooklyn to Golden State in a sign-and-trade deal, but Rosas and the Timberwolves didn't give up on the goal.

When the injury-wrecked Warriors, the only team below Minnesota in the Western Conference, agreed to take Andrew Wiggins and a pair of 2021 draft picks, the Wolves finally had the sidekick for Towns they've been seeking.

"This is crazy to me to wake up and see the situation that I'm in and feel the love of somebody wanting me to be here. It's just a surreal moment for me right now," said Russell, who has career highs in points per game (23.6) and three-point shooting (37.4%) this season.



Minnesota Timberwolves guard D'Angelo Russell

STACY BENCS/AP



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

According to a source, the Red Sox and Dodgers completed a deal to send outfielder Mookie Betts, pictured, and pitcher David Price to Los Angeles, five days after an initial deal was held up.

Red Sox, Dodgers complete reworked deal for Betts, Price

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

BOSTON — Two days before the start of spring training, the Boston Red Sox have again agreed to send 2018 AL MVP Mookie Betts and pitcher David Price to the Los Angeles Dodgers in a reworked deal, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The Red Sox will receive Dodgers outfielder Alex Verdugo and prospects Jeter Downs and Connor Wong, the person told the AP on the condition of anonymity because the deal still needed the approval of Major League Baseball. Boston was to send cash to the Dodgers to offset Price's salary, reportedly half of the \$96 million still owed to the 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner.

A three-team deal that would have sent Dodgers pitcher Kenta Maeda to the Twins for pitcher Brusdar Graterol and then flipped Graterol to the Red Sox fell apart last week when Boston balked at Graterol's medical records. Los Angeles and Minnesota agreed Sunday to swap Graterol for Maeda, according to a person with direct knowledge of the deal, five days after the initial Betts-headlined trade with the Red Sox was held up.

The Twins also agreed to send one of their draft picks in the competitive balance round this summer — 67th overall — and a minor leaguer to the Dodgers for \$10 million and a minor leaguer to settle their portion of the trade.

Graterol was first headed for the Red Sox as part of a three-team swap agreed to Tuesday that moved Betts, a four-time All-Star, and starting pitcher David Price to the Dodgers. But the Red Sox, as first reported by The Athletic, raised questions about the health of the hard-throwing Graterol's arm.

The resulting renegotiation was resolved with the Red Sox and Dodgers conducting their own trade involving Betts and

Price. The Twins and Dodgers technically now have a separate deal, the person said. The trades, of course, are subject to medical reviews before finalization.

The 21-year-old Graterol, who can touch triple digits on the radar gun with his fastball, missed time last season for Double-A Pensacola with a shoulder injury. The right-hander recovered in time to make his major league debut with the Twins and pitch in the postseason. The Twins confirmed last month their intent to focus on developing him as a reliever, rather than a starter.

Maeda, who spent his first four major league seasons with the Dodgers after coming over from Japan, likely will slide into the middle of Minnesota's rotation. The right-hander has a 3.87 ERA with 641 strikeouts in 589 career innings, including some late-season and postseason stints in relief.

Meanwhile the Red Sox and Dodgers spent the weekend finding another way to complete the deal that put Betts in Dodgers blue while allowing Boston to get under the collective bargaining tax threshold in 2020. The 2018 World Series champions will save tens of millions of dollars this season in salary and penalties, but at the expense of one of the best players in baseball.

Los Angeles has won seven straight NL West titles, averaging more than 100 wins over the past three seasons, but has only a pair of NL pennants to show for it, twice losing in the World Series to teams that were later accused of cheating. With Betts and Price, the Dodgers have what they hope will be the final pieces they need to win their first Series since 1988.

Betts will earn \$27 million this year; he is eligible to become a free agent after the season and has turned down a nine-figure contract extension.

AP Sports Writer Dave Campbell contributed to this story from Minneapolis.

SOCCKER/GOLF

US women shut out Canada, take final in Olympic qualifier

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Lynn Williams and the rest of the U.S. women sensed it was just a matter of time before they wore down Canada.

Williams broke open a scoreless stalemate with a goal in the 61st minute and the United States beat Canada 3-0 on Sunday in the title match of the CONCACAF Women's Olympic qualifying tournament.

"We have a great front line, we have a great midfield. The defenders were doing their job in the first half, so now it was our turn to get the job done in the second half," Williams said.

Lindsey Horan and Megan Rapinoe also scored for the United States, which extended its undefeated streak to 28 games. The U.S. did not concede a goal in five qualifying matches, and scored 25 times.

The U.S. and Canada had both already secured the region's two spots in the Tokyo Games with victories in the semifinals. The United States, ranked No. 1 in the world, beat Mexico 4-0 in one semifinal and eighth-ranked Canada edged Costa Rica 1-0 in the other game on Friday.

The U.S. has been to every Olympics since women's soccer was included in 1996, and has won four gold medals. But the Americans were knocked out in the quarterfinals by Sweden four years ago in Brazil, the team's earliest Olympic exit.

Canada has made the field in the past three Olympics, winning the bronze medal in the last two.

It was the fourth time the teams have met in the final of the region's qualifying tournament, with the United States winning all four.

"In the first half, throughout the whole game, they were very organized, very disciplined. They're one of the best teams in the world, top 10 in the world, so it's not going to be easy. If you sit back it will be really hard," U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski said. "I think in the first half we weren't patient enough and not sharp enough. But I think in the second half we came out with a little bit more energy, we moved the ball a little faster, which ultimately resulted in a goal."

Andonovski started Williams and Jessica McDonald, giving Tobin Heath the day off. Rapinoe came in as a substitute. Other veterans on the bench for the match included defenders Becky Sauerbrunn and Kelley O'Hara.

Julie Ertz wore the captain's armband for her 99th appearance with the team. Christen Press started and her streak of scoring in six straight games ended. Press was the fifth U.S. woman with a scoring streak at least three long, joining Mia Hamm, Michelle Akers, April Heinrichs



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

United States forward Lynn Williams (13) celebrates her goal with midfielder Lindsey Horan during their team's 3-0 defeat of Canada on Sunday in the CONCACAF Women's Olympic qualifying final in Carson, Calif.

and Carli Lloyd. It was the longest such streak for the U.S. since Lloyd scored in seven straight in 2014.

As expected, Canada coach Kenneth Heimer-Moller emphasized defense against his offensively proficient opponent, starting five defenders. The approach worked well throughout the first half.

And despite the defensive stand, Canada did have its opportunities. Jessie Fleming, a standout at UCLA, had an attempt that went over the goal and into the netting.

Press' blast in the 32nd minute hit the crossbar. A few moments later, she caught Canada goalkeeper Stephanie Labbe far out in front of her net, but the attempt from distance sailed over the goal.

Christine Sinclair's attempt on a breakaway in the 38th minute was stopped by U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher.

Williams finally broke through Canada's defense with a blast into the upper corner for a 1-0 lead. Horan doubled it 10 minutes later when she dribbled around two defenders and finished with a perfectly placed shot that Labbe couldn't reach.

After her late goal, Rapinoe struck her victory pose with both arms raised toward the crowd, a move made famous last summer when the United States won the World Cup.

"I actually don't think they did too much to adjust. We made three individual mistakes, and gave them three goals," Sinclair said. "I thought we played a pretty even first half, obviously they dominated possession. But against a team like that, you can't give them goals, and we did that tonight."

Both teams went undefeated in the run-up to the final match.



PHOTOS BY ERIC RISBERG/AP

Above: Nick Taylor of Canada hits out of a bunker up to the second green during the Pebble Beach Pro-Am Sunday in Pebble Beach, Calif. Below: Taylor is greeted by Phil Mickelson on the 18th green.

Taylor holds on for victory

He outduels Streelman, Mickelson to win the Pebble Beach Pro-Am

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Nick Taylor knew the odds were not in his favor Sunday at Pebble Beach.

Already nervous about facing Phil Mickelson for the first time with only a one-shot lead, Taylor found himself watching Lefty's short-game highlight show on the eve of their final-round pairing at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

"I was just curious, to be honest. And he hit some amazing shots," Taylor said. "I'm like, 'Well, I don't know if he can keep that up. If he can, great.' But if I keep doing what I'm doing, plugging along ... then try to make the guys behind me try to beat me."

Taylor created his own short-game highlights for a victory.

He holed a bunker shot for eagle that carried him to a five-shot lead at the turn. And when that lead shrunk to two shots in 40 mph gusts, Taylor chipped in for a birdie on the 15th hole that all but sealed it.

Taylor had more trouble with



the wind than Mickelson. He never lost the lead and closed with a 2-under 70 for a four-shot victory over Kevin Streelman.

Mickelson, going for a record sixth time at he Pebble Beach Pro-Am, faded to third with a 74.

"It's disappointing certainly to have not won, but I got outplayed," Mickelson said. "I mean, Nick played better than I did. He holed a couple of great shots. That

eagle on 6, the putts he made on 4, 5 and 7 ... he just really played some great golf."

Taylor's last win was as a PGA Tour rookie at the 2015 Sanderson Farms Championship in Mississippi.

"I believed I could do it because I've done it before," Taylor said. "But to do it in that fashion, playing with Phil, gives me a lot of confidence going forward."

LPGA cancels 2 more events due to virus

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

The LPGA Tour has canceled two more tournaments in Asia because of the coronavirus, knocking out three of the five tournaments that comprise its first international swing.

The LPGA said Sunday night the Honda LPGA Thailand, scheduled for Feb. 20-23, and the HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore, scheduled for the following week, have been canceled.

It previously postponed the Blue Bay LPGA on Hainan Island in China over concerns about the new type of coronavirus, which originated in Wuhan, China.

Mainland China reported another rise in cases

with deaths increasing by 97 to 908. China's health ministry said 40,171 people have been affected on the mainland.

The cancellations of the Thailand and Singapore events were "due to the continued health concerns and recent advisories in some Asian countries" that large-scale events should not be held, the LPGA Tour said in a statement.

"It is always a difficult decision to cancel events and the LPGA greatly appreciates the understanding and all the efforts made by our title sponsors (Honda and HSBC) as well as IMG to host incredible events for our players," the statement said. "The health and safety of our players, fans and everyone working on the event is always our highest priority."

AUTO RACING

Stenhouse wins Daytona pole with new team

By MARK LONG
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Ricky Stenhouse Jr. needed just two days to get his new team to the top.

Stenhouse won the pole Sunday for the season-opening Daytona 500 next week, putting JTG-Daugherty Racing in the NASCAR spotlight for a week. Stenhouse's third pole in 257 Cup Series starts and first at Daytona International Speedway came on his second day in the new Chevrolet Camaro.

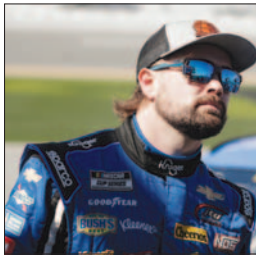
His first day behind the wheel came during practice Saturday.

"It's the best driving Camaro I've ever driven," Stenhouse quipped.

Stenhouse turned a fast lap at 194.582 mph to claim the pole, edging Alex Bowman for the top spot. Bowman reached 194.363 mph around the 2½-mile superspeedway to lock down a front-row spot for the third consecutive year. Bowman finished 17th and 11th, respectively, in the last two openers.

"As a race car driver, there's not much you can do to make them go faster," Bowman said. "But you can sure screw them up, so at least I didn't do that."

Only the top two spots were determined in single-car qualifying. The starting order for the rest of the 40-car field will be set by a pair of qualifying races Thursday at Daytona.



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Ricky Stenhouse Jr. watches the leaderboard after his run during qualifying for the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday.

Even so, the Hendrick Motorsports entries clearly have speed: Stenhouse's engines are built by Hendrick, and Hendrick drivers Bowman, Chase Elliott and Jimmie Johnson were second through fourth on the speed chart.

Defending race winner Denny Hamlin was fifth fastest.

Winning the pole means little, if anything, at NASCAR's premier race. No

pole winner has gone on to win "the Great American Race" since Hall of Famer Dale Jarrett in 2000.

But for Stenhouse, the accomplishment meant everything.

He was surprisingly dumped by Roush Fenway Racing in October, long after the two-time Xfinity Series champion thought he was good for another year with the only NASCAR team for which he's driven. The team had a chance to bring back former developmental driver Chris Buescher and gave him Stenhouse's seat in the No. 17 Ford.

Stenhouse, coincidentally, replaced Buescher at JTG and brought crew chief Brian Pattie with him.

"I think there's a handful of us that feel like we have something to prove," Stenhouse said. "I feel like I can still get the job done behind the wheel and win races like we did in the Xfinity Series. ... That was a huge move for me going over there, bringing people that I'm familiar with that have always been in my corner. I think I'd have been lost not having them there."

There was an opportunity in Sunday qualifying for two teams that don't hold contracts to lock up spots in the starting grid. Justin Haley and Brendan Gaughan, the youngest and oldest drivers on the Daytona 500 entry list, landed those.

Haley was the surprise winner of last July's rain-shortened race at Daytona.

Scoreboard

Daytona 500 Lineup

After Sunday qualifying
at Daytona International Speedway
Daytona Beach, Fla.

- Car number in parentheses**
- (47) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 194.582 mph.
 - (88) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 194.363.
 - (9) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 194.305.
 - (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 193.886.
 - (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 193.432.
 - (18) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 192.876.
 - (10) Eric Altmire, Ford, 192.588.
 - (24) William Byron, Chevrolet, 192.443.
 - (95) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 192.234.
 - (20) Erik Jones, Toyota, 192.066.
 - (22) Joey Logano, Ford, 192.033.
 - (4) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 192.025.
 - (14) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 191.873.
 - (41) Cole Custer, Ford, 191.812.
 - (6) Ryan Newman, Ford, 191.693.
 - (21) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 191.685.
 - (37) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 191.616.
 - (8) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 191.559.
 - (17) Chris Buescher, Ford, 191.555.
 - (42) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 191.542.
 - (19) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 191.514.
 - (21) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 191.278.
 - (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 191.270.
 - (34) Michael McDowell, Ford, 191.205.
 - (38) John Hunter Nemechek, Ford, 191.180.
 - (36) David Ragan, Ford, 190.876.
 - (12) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 190.658.
 - (7) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 190.428.
 - (31) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 190.384.
 - (13) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 190.300.
 - (16) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 190.018.
 - (43) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, 189.510.
 - (62) Brendan Gaughan, Chevrolet, 188.945.
 - (27) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 187.356.
 - (68) Timmy Hill, Ford, 186.625.
 - (96) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 185.479.
 - (32) Corey LaJoie, Ford, 185.166.
 - (80) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, 183.887.
 - (54) J. Yeley, Ford, 183.292.
 - (15) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, 181.781.

Busch Crash? Jones survives wrecks, opens year with win

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The first race of the NASCAR season was a demolition derby that turned Daytona International Speedway into a giant junkyard.

The Busch Clash? More like the Busch Crash.

Erik Jones won Sunday's race that left a multi-million dollar trail of destruction and masked the fact the Clash was a made-for-TV exhibition race. Only 18 cars were entered and only six were on track when the checkered flag flew at the end of a third overtime.

Jones crossed the finish line in a Toyota with a crumpled hood after a huge push from Joe Gibbs Racing teammate and defending Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin.

"I've got to give a huge thanks to Denny there ... he stuck with us there that whole last lap," Jones said. "It wasn't the fastest car I don't think left in the race, but we brought it home. I owe him one for that one, for sure."

Hamlin was a lap down after a blown tire on the previous overtime attempt caused him to crash half the cars remaining on track, but he had enough speed to push Jones along the outside and give Gibbs yet another win. The Gibbs organization won 19 races last year, went 1-2-3 in the Daytona 500 and won the Cup Series title.

Joe Gibbs is now the all-time winningest owner in Busch Clash history with nine victories.

Brad Keselowski was among those incensed by the aggressive late blocking.



DARRYL GRAHAM/AP

Erik Jones (20) and Kyle Larson (42) wreck going through Turn 4 during the NASCAR Busch Clash at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday. Jones recovered to win the season-opening race at Daytona Beach, Fla.

The race was fairly anti-climactic until two wrecks in the final nine laps sent it into overtime, and as Keselowski railed against the racing that ended his day, Hamlin got a flat tire as the leader on a restart and collected most of the cars on track.

"Dumb, dumb racing," said Keselowski, who slopped the side of an ambulance with both hands in frustration. "We shouldn't be wrecking all these cars. You'd think these guys would be smarter than that. It's

the same thing over and over, somebody throws a stupid block that's never going to work and wrecks half the field.

"I don't know. Maybe we need to take the helmets out of these cars and the seat belts out. Somebody will get hurt, and then we'll stop driving like (expletive)."

Kyle Busch, collected in the accident that ended Keselowski's day when teammate Joey Logano tried to block Busch, said the crashes are a product of superspeedway

racing. The cars raced are backups for the Feb. 16 season-opening Daytona 500. The 75-lap event went 88 laps because of the crashes, making it the longest in history.

Austin Dillon was second in the new Chevrolet Camaro and followed by Clint Bowyer in a Ford for Stewart-Haas Racing. Kyle Larson was fourth for Chip Ganassi Racing and Ryan Newman, in a Roush Fenway Racing Ford, was fifth and the last car on the lead lap.

SPORTS



Perfect match?

On his 4th team in 5 years, Russell finally feeling the love in Minnesota » **Page 21**

UNSTOPPABLE

NHL

Opponents helpless against
league's preeminent scorer

Even at age 34, there's no game-planning for Washington Capitals' left wing Alex Ovechkin, who last season became the oldest player to lead the NHL in goals since Phil Esposito did it in 1974-75 at age 32.

Nick Wass/AP

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Alex Ovechkin arrived in Washington in the summer of 2005 wearing mismatched flip flops and Daisy Duke shorts. He looked like a lost tourist.

Ovechkin went No. 1 in the draft and was touted as a can't-miss prospect, but Capitals teammates wondered aloud if this guy really was supposed to be the new face of the franchise, much less an elite player.

A decade and a half later, Ovechkin is the grinning, gap-toothed face of NHL goal scoring, much to the continued bewilderment of his opponents.

The big Russian left winger is on the verge of becoming just the eighth player to score 700 career goals, thanks to a once-in-a-generation combination of physicality, power and a unique shot that has made him nearly impossible to stop.

SEE SCORER ON PAGE 18

WASHINGTON

Pounding the puck

698

Career goals for Capitals winger Alex Ovechkin. With two more he will become the 8th player in NHL history to reach 700 goals.

11

Seasons in which Ovechkin has scored 40 or more goals, trailing only Wayne Gretzky for the most in league history.

0.5

Average goals per game by Ovechkin in the playoffs, 10th-best all time. Ovechkin won postseason MVP honors in 2018.

SOURCE: Associated Press

'He just can score from anywhere. You sort of think teams would come up with a game plan to stop him, but you can't.'

Mark Giordano

Calgary defenseman, on Washington Capitals winger Alex Ovechkin

Stenhouse Jr. speeds to Daytona 500 pole with new race team » **Page 23**

US women shut out Canada in final of Olympic soccer qualifier » **Page 22**

